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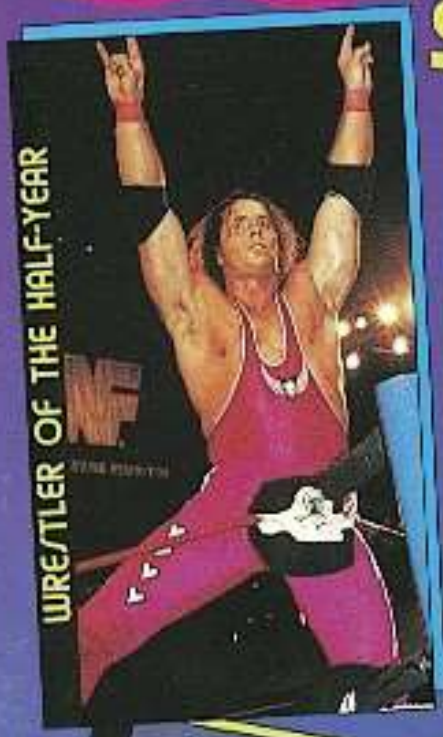

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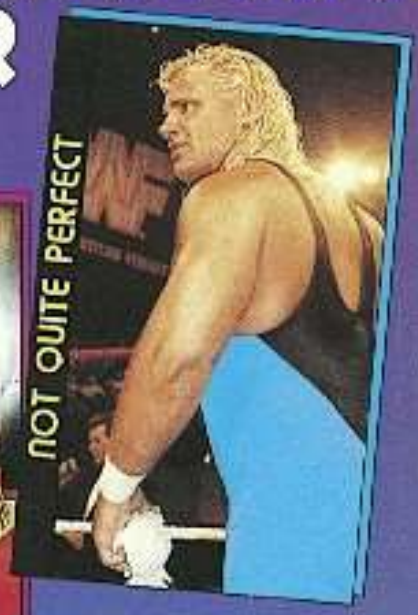

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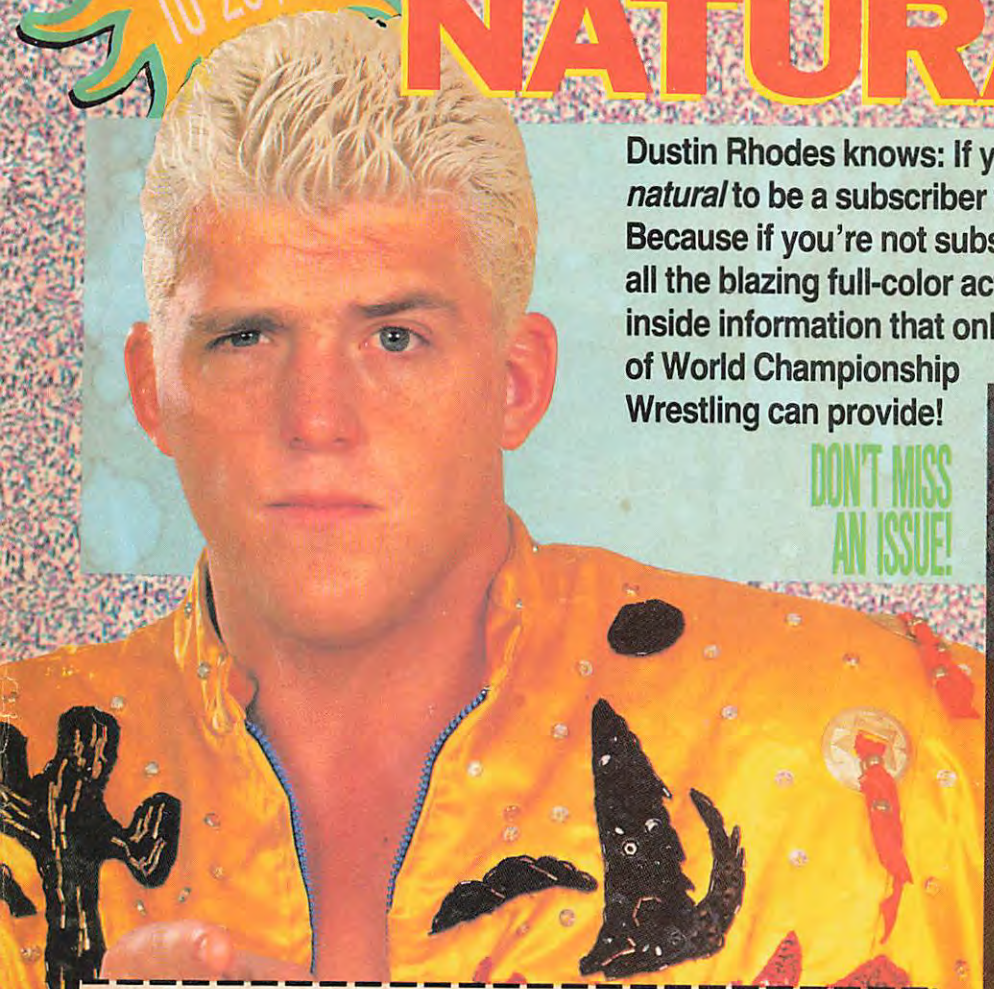

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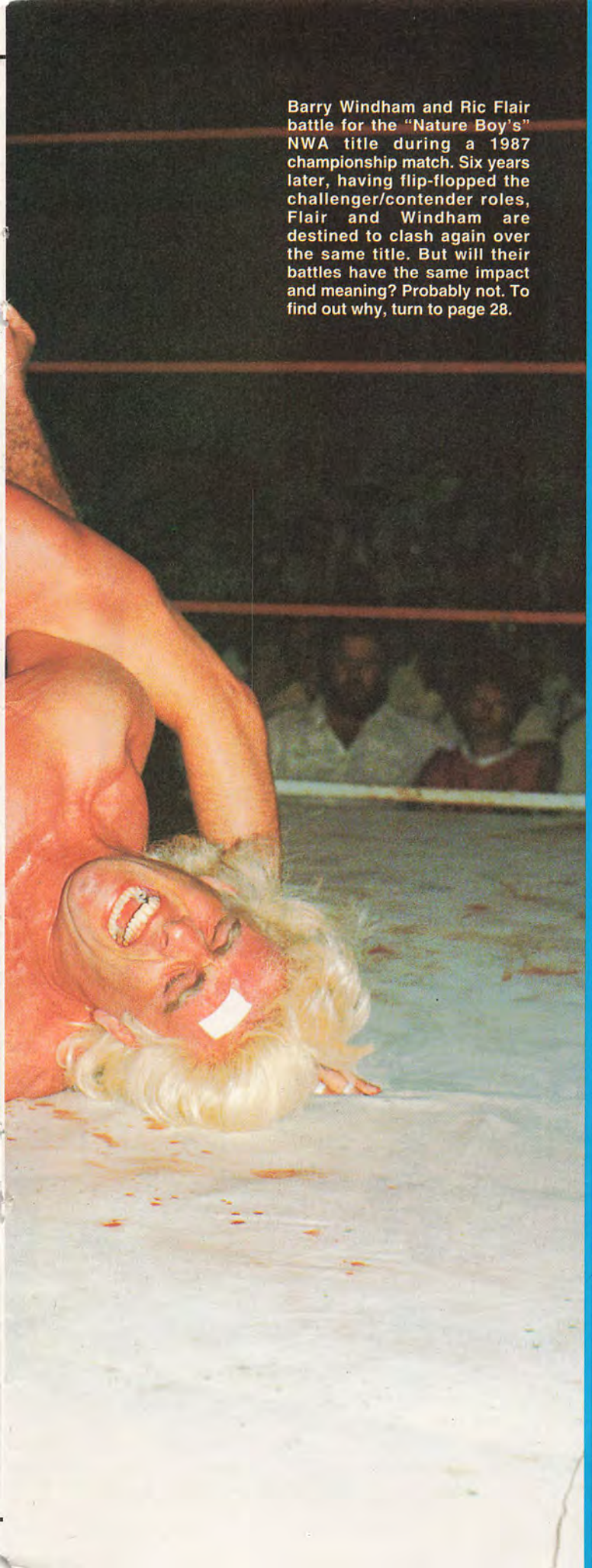

Barry Windham and Ric Flair battle for the "Nature Boy's" NWA title during a 1987 championship match. Six years later, having flip-flopped the challenger/contender roles, Flair and Windham are destined to clash again over the same title. But will their battles have the same impact and meaning? Probably not. To find out why, turn to page 28.

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from the desk of...

Stuart M. Saks

Paul Roma went to sleep one night a few months back thinking about how wonderful life would be if he were able to become heavyweight boxing champion of the world. What happened between the hours of 11 p.m. and seven the next morning told him all he needed to know about his life as a professional athlete.

"It was only the worst nightmare I ever had," said Roma. "When I woke up, the sheets were wet, I sweated so much."

Pausing thoughtfully, he added, "At the time, it was awful, but it was probably the best thing that ever happened to me."

The details of the dream would be comical if they weren't so important to this man's life. Call it a cross between *Rocky* and *The Wizard Of Oz*.

"What I remember was that I was sparring with Mike Tyson," Roma recalls.

Stop.

Let me interject something here for those of you who don't follow boxing closely. Of course, all of you know who Mike Tyson is, but what you might not know is that Paul Roma, the same Paul Roma who teamed in the WWF with Jim Powers and later with Hercules, had given up his career as a wrestler to embark on a new career as a prize fighter. His trainer was Kevin Rooney, the man who guided Mike Tyson to his championship glory.

Sorry, Paul, back to the dream...

"Anyway, I'm sparring with Mike Tyson, who is out of jail and training for a fight with Riddick Bowe. The first two rounds, he lays a lickin' on me. I've got headgear on, so he's not really hurting

(Continued on page 56)

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Which young WCW star is known as "The Natural"?
1) Steve Austin
2) Scotty the Body
3) Dustin Rhodes
4) Robert Redford

Who portrayed Thunderlips in the film *Rocky III*?
1) Hulk Hogan
2) Lou Albano
3) Jesse Ventura
4) Rick Martel

Which of the following wrestlers is "Ravishing"?
1) Ron Ritchie
2) Dusty Rhodes
3) Rick Steamboat
4) Rick Rude

True or False: Jesse Ventura was a member of the elite Navy Seals?
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WRESTLEMANIA REVIEWS

Our August 1993 cover showcased WrestleMania IX, the WWF's annual pay-per-view extravaganza. Major events attract major attention, and almost every wrestling fan has an opinion about this card.

"I am appalled at the WWF for WrestleMania IX," wrote Cindy Costlow of Columbus, Ohio. "The match between Shawn Michaels and Tatanka was pure crap! Where was the referee? Also, Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake should have received the tag team belts. Whatever happened to the good old days of wrestling?"

"It was a good day of action, worth the money, but I was disappointed to see Bret Hart lose the belt, especially when it means we'll have to sit through another title reign of Hulk Hogan," wrote George Morgan of Anaheim, California.

Some fans loved it all.

"I think WrestleMania IX is the new cornerstone in wrestling events," wrote Gregory Sterner of Mohnton, Pennsylvania. "It had everything: excitement, pageantry, and surprises. It was obviously the greatest WrestleMania of all-time. The WWF will shine because of WrestleMania IX."

ATTACKING STEREOTYPES

I watch professional wrestling for the action as well as for some of its more intriguing personalities, such as The Undertaker, but I abhor the WWF's use of degrading stereotypes. Recently, reader Dustin Dedrickson wrote that he and his father enjoyed the self-embarrassing antics of "midget" wrestlers Tiger Jackson and Little Louie on a WWF card.

The WWF only perpetuates stereotypes by putting midget wrestlers like Tiger Jackson and Little Louie on its cards, says reader Paul M. Margel.

All these individuals should know that short-statured persons (the accepted term), like all other persons with physical challenges, are the equals of everyone else in intellect and feelings. They have long proven their abilities in some of the most demanding fields, and they are not born for the amusement of others. I recommend some 20th-century enlightenment and sensitivity training for these people as well as for Mr. Vince McMahon.

PAUL M. MARGEL
Washington, DC

(☎) DESTINED FOR GOLD

I want to respond to your recent article about Lex Luger and Mr. Hughes ("Lex Luger And Mr. Hughes: Together Again—As Partners Or Rivals?" August 1993). My opinion is that the "Narcissist" is too smart to get tangled up with Mr. Hughes again. Lex knows that he can get the glory he deserves by setting his sights on a championship belt. He was in a terrible motorcycle wreck, but now he's recovered, he has a second chance, and he won't look back.

Mr. Hughes is a part of Luger's past, and he should stay there. If Lex goes after Hughes he'll have nothing to gain. I look for him to go after someone like Marty Jannetty and the Intercontinental belt. Better yet, he'll probably wait for Yokozuna to soften up Hulk Hogan and then take the "Hulkster's" belt when he's ready.

JIM WARNER
Evansville, IN

MARTY'S THE MAN

Recently on a WWF telecast, Lord Alfred Hayes reported that Marty Jannetty had beaten Shawn Michaels for the Intercontinental belt. I was overjoyed that Marty won the belt. Then, Lord Alfred called it "an upset" and said Marty was "infinitely less talented" than Shawn. Get real, Alfred!

Let's set the record straight: It was Jannetty who held The Rockers together for all those years. If it weren't for Marty's talent, The Rockers would never have been the team they were. Shawn is an obnoxious jerk and everything a

man shouldn't be. I think Lord Alfred should have given Marty Jannetty the credit he deserves. Marty *deserved* to win the title, and he is every bit as talented as Shawn.

MARK PAGEL
Greenfield, WI

LIGHTEN UP

I wonder why WCW hasn't resurrected the light heavyweight title by now. A tournament was promised to us in January, and we still haven't heard a peep about it. Lots of people, both fans and wrestlers, have been clamoring for it for months now. Instead WCW has been more concerned with filling the TV title. WCW has a tremendous talent pool for a light heavyweight tournament, and I believe it should start pronto, as it is long overdue.

Brad Armstrong displays the light heavyweight belt that is no longer available in WCW. Rita M. Buda wonders why.

RITA M. BUDA
Chicago, IL

(☎)VERY FUNNY, VAN

I wonder who ever got the crazy notion that Van Hammer could contend for any title anywhere ("Does Van Hammer Have The Tools To Nail Down The NWA Title?" August 1993). This guy makes me laugh. He's so wrapped up in his image, with the motorcycle and the rock music thing, that he barely has time to work on actual wrestling skills. A lot of people don't realize that it takes more than a nice physique and good looks to win a title. Who has he really beaten so far?

Van Hammer simply doesn't have the tools to be a champion—yet—in the opinion of Perry Wilson.

I think the next few months will bring out the true colors of Van Hammer. He's a nice attraction for some of WCW's fans, but he's not someone that any of WCW's rule-breakers need to worry much about.

PERRY WILSON
Decatur, GA

POOR BRUTUS

I have to disagree with "WrestleMania IX: The Real Winners and Losers" (August 1993) on one count: The article stated that Bret Hart was the real loser when Hulk Hogan defeated Yokozuna for the WWF title, but I feel that the real loser in this situation was Brutus Beefcake. Just at the time when it looked promising for a return by "The Barber" and an exciting team in The Megamaniacs, Beefcake is left out in the cold, lost in Hogan's glory. Since WrestleMania IX, I have neither

(Continued on page 60)

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI

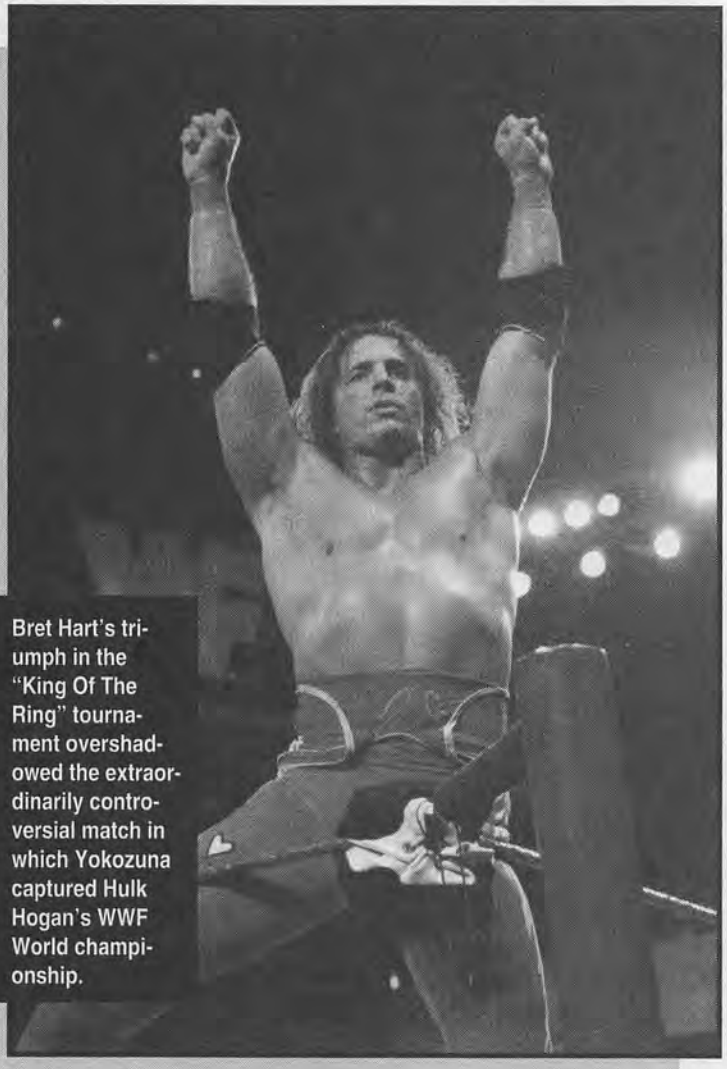
The cover of the October 1983 issue featured Tommy Rich and asked five former NWA champions, "Can Tommy Rich Capture The NWA World Title Again?" Lou Thesz, Harley Race, Dusty Rhodes, Dory Funk Jr., and Shohei "Giant" Baba offered opinions. Thesz and Rhodes said yes, Race and Funk said no, while Baba's response fell somewhere in between.

The centerfold showcased Junkyard Dog, who had been in the midst of a feud with Ted DiBiase. After Junkyard Dog dropped a loser-leaves-town match to DiBiase, a masked man named Stagger Lee (who many claimed was JYD) beat DiBiase for the North American belt, then immediately vacated the title. JYD returned and won a tournament to claim the belt.

Elsewhere in the magazine: Liz Hunter got the details on Eddie Gilbert's near-fatal automobile accident from Eddie himself in "On Assignment." Tommy Gilbert, Eddie's father, presented Liz with a letter thanking all the fans for their concern ... "Rowdy" Roddy Piper sat down for a "Press Conference" and discussed Greg Valentine's brutal attack that resulted in him losing the U.S. title and much of the hearing in his left ear. Piper vowed revenge ... Columnist Matt Brock looked at Kamala, and didn't like what he saw in the savage Ugandan giant ... The feud between WWF Intercontinental champion Magnificent Muraco and Rocky Johnson was featured, as it shifted north of the border to Toronto, where it remained just as intense and just as bitter.

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter



Bret Hart's triumph in the "King Of The Ring" tournament overshadowed the extraordinarily controversial match in which Yokozuna captured Hulk Hogan's WWF World championship.

LOST IN THE WWF's whole blockbuster pay-per-view "King Of The Ring" event was an emerging trend in wrestling that bothers me. The **Hulk Hogan-Yokozuna** WWF World title match was, in effect, decided when a photographer's flash blew up in Hogan's face. The "Hulkster" noticed the photographer on the ring apron when he seemed to have the match well in hand. When Hogan approached the bearded man, the explosion took place.

This comes on the heels of an incident in which **"Stunning" Steve Austin** disguised himself as a photographer during a **Brian Pillman-Arn Anderson** bout. With Pillman in trouble, Austin discarded his disguise and helped Pillman pummel "The Enforcer."

As a photographer by trade, I've always been 100 percent behind media types who go that extra yard to get the pictures they need. But fans come to see the wrestlers. Ever hear the old axiom that reporters should report the news, not make it. How about adding that photographers should shoot the matches, not decide them? Let's get some better security at ringside!

Getting back to actual *wrestling*, is this truly the dawn of a new era when the crowning of **Bret "Hitman" Hart** as "King Of The Ring" received more attention than the WWF World belt changing hands?

Hogan *has* said he wants to devote more time to acting. Perhaps the WWF will acquiesce to his wishes and allow talented grapplers like Hart and Yokozuna (grudgingly) to carry the torch for the federation. More than a few wrestlers, in various federations, have confided to me that they haven't seen a better all-around performance than the one put on by Hart when he defeated **Razor Ramon**, **Curt Hennig**, and **Bam Bam Bigelow** that night in Dayton since **Ric Flair** took the NWA to school on a nightly basis during the 1980s.

That said, let's look further at the "King Of The Ring" undercard. You can bet **Shawn Michaels** loved the attention bestowed upon Yokozuna and Hart. Not that he particularly likes either man—the "Boy Toy" is clearly only enamored of himself—but with everyone talking about new king Hart and new champ Yokozuna, the heat is off Michaels. The Intercontinental champion will be able to quietly work out his own schedule of title defenses.

At "King Of The Ring," the **Doinks** again

foiled the dreams of Hawaiian strongman **Crush**. The clown princes of the WWF ambled their way to ringside in the middle of the Michaels-Crush I-C title bout and distracted Crush. When Crush climbed the ropes in the corner to warn the approaching Doinks, Michaels nailed him from behind and cradled him for the pin.

Crush then chased the Doinks back to the dressing room.

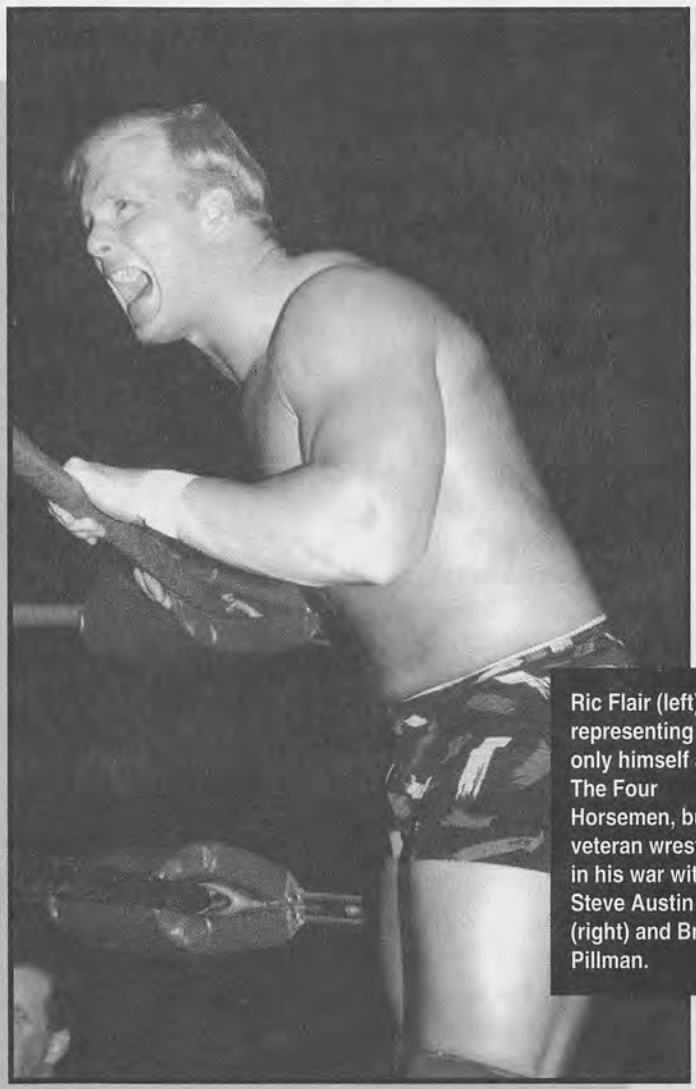
Is there anyone more unlucky at pay-per-view events than Crush? He lost to Doink at WrestleMania IX when Doink II interfered. Now he misses out on a golden I-C chance when both jokers got involved. Maybe Crush should just book his next vacation for the last week in August, when the WWF presents its next pay-per-view event, SummerSlam, in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Is anyone talking about the latest chapter in the Michaels I-C saga? Not many that I know of. Just the way Shawn Michaels likes it.

It was nice to see a major wrestling event that we didn't have to pay to watch. WCW's Clash of Champions XXIII from Norfolk, Virginia, seen live on TBS, featured the long-awaited return of Flair *to the ring*. Flair and Four Horsemen compatriot **Arn Anderson** took on WCW World tag team champions **The Hollywood Blonds** in a challenge match that probably would have gotten those two Horsemen the tag belts had **Barry Windham** not interfered.

That feud is certainly heating up. The Blonds gave Anderson quite a beating after the match in which Austin disguised himself. Flair had come to Anderson's aid on previ-

(Continued on page 54)



Ric Flair (left) is representing not only himself and The Four Horsemen, but all veteran wrestlers in his war with Steve Austin (right) and Brian Pillman.

WIN LOSE OR DRAW

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

IF THE EVENTS we have witnessed in wrestling thus far this year seem surprising or amazing or generally unbelievable, that would not make this year any different than the rest. When has there ever been a "normal" year in this sport?

The most normal thing or person we have seen is Bob Backlund, and even his return late in 1992 was heralded as a phenomenon, a George Foreman-like comeback. No, the most normal thing about the mat sport is its lack of normality. Which is probably the very reason most fans would give for liking it.

Welcome, Steve Regal.

To believe Regal's claim to royalty is to believe he offers something more extraordinary than any of his peers. Of course he does not. He is a fine wrestler, but he has not been blessed with skills that will, for example, cause him to defeat Big Van Vader in five seconds.

However, Regal offers something perhaps just as important: a spectacle. He was, like Backlund, boring; now he is at least interesting, if not fun. He wishes to be known as Lord Steven Regal. He sports ring attire to match his new outlook. And he has a manager named Sir William.

Is all this going to help Regal reach his goals? Maybe. Is it all worth it? That's for Regal to say. It would be correct, though, to regard this move as a failure, even if Regal wins the WCW World championship.

Even if he lacks the skills, Lord Steven Regal certainly has the attire to back up his noble claims. Andy Rodriguez feels he'd be better off maintaining a low profile.

Regal may well have a drop or two of royal blood in him; many British do. That claim is hardly worth disputing. The problem is that he is quickly losing the respect of his fans and, more importantly, his opponents.

That is no problem for Regal, he says.

"I am not going to concede anything to you," Regal stated arrogantly. "You expect me to apologize for what I've become. You want me to bow down before the old order and retract what I now believe. I cannot and will not do that. I won't live within your expectations. I won't be bound by your beliefs."

It was the first and final comment he offered on the subject. The rest of the Regal party line was given by his manager.

"To begin with, no right-thinking wrestler has ever been helped by those fans," William claimed. "They certainly did not help his Lordship. On the contrary. They distracted him. Because he was seeking to please them, he hurt himself in the ring.

"He's free of that now," William continued. "Together we have chosen the path that will lead him to glory. I can tell you that he definitely has not lost the respect of his opponents. Actually, they have *more* respect for him, because they see in front of them a new man, one capable of great things. Lack of respect? Never!"

(Continued on page 58)

WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

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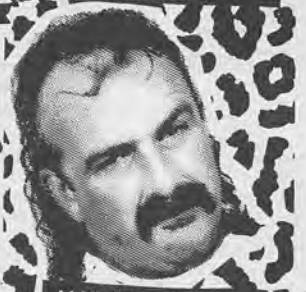
RICKY "THE DRAGON" STEAMBOAT



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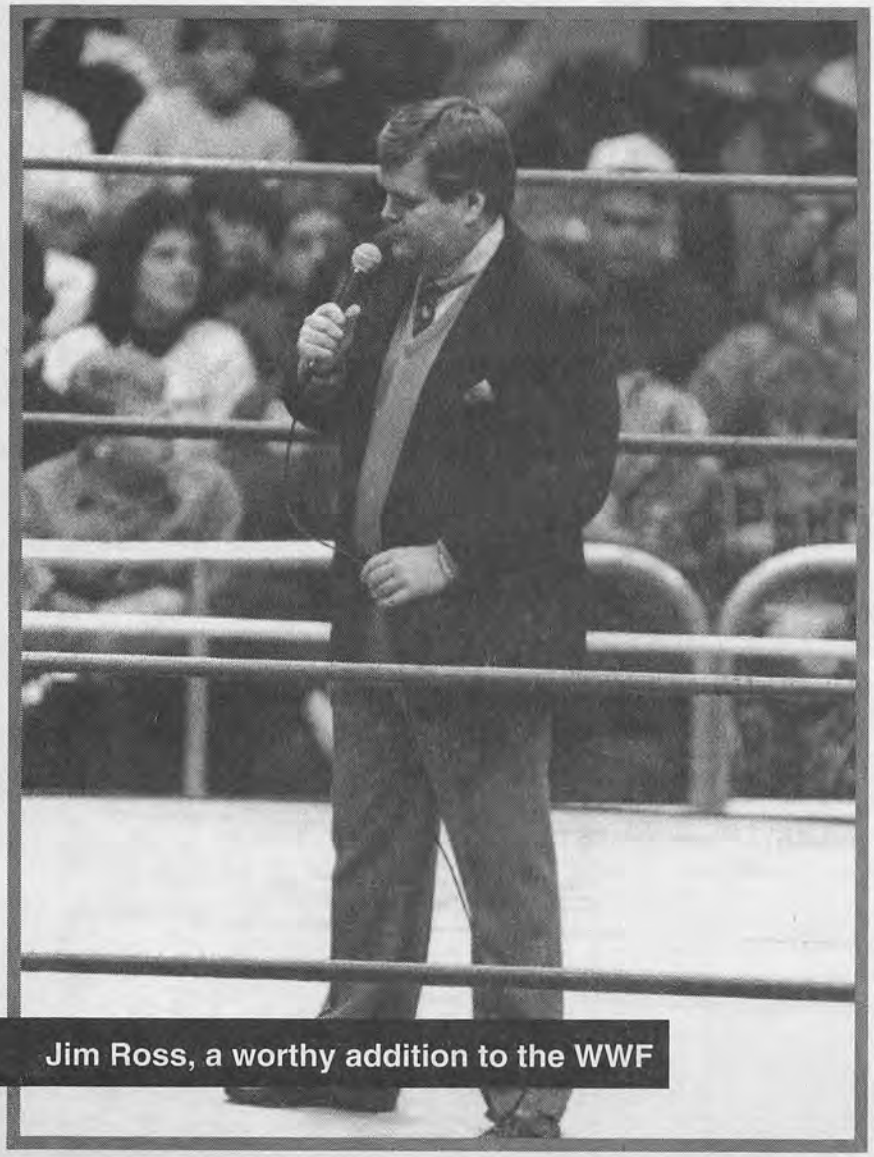
WITH CRAIG PETERS

WHAT MAKES YOU WATCH WRESTLING?



Jim Ross, a worthy addition to the WWF

Back in the August 1993 issue, I asked readers to give some serious thought to the questions, "What makes you tune in to wrestling on television?" and "What makes you attend wrestling in the arenas?"

I received quite a few interesting letters on the subject, and would like to turn my entire column this month over to your responses to those questions.

A big part of the reason why I watch the WWF on television is to keep up on the feuds, wrote Joseph Gurcsik of Haddonfield, New Jersey. *I like seeing who got jumped, who got put in their place, and to see wrestlers working their way to the top. Jim Ross was also an excellent addition to the commentators.*

With the WWF there is nothing so important that it cannot be videotaped and viewed later, Joseph continued. *WCW, though, is a television show which is not to be missed, especially the Saturday and Sunday evening shows. With WCW, I go to the arenas and watch it on television for completely different reasons. Watching the wrestling moves is incredible. WCW matches on television are matches that I would like to see in an arena. This gives me more of a reason to go to the arena, because I know that I will not be disappointed.*

Dave Szymanak of Binghamton, New York, however, has a point of view on the situation that is not so optimistic:

It used to be that I watched wrestling on

Doink

television to see reasonably competitive matches. But with the focus of everything now leading to pay-per-view events all year long, I mainly tune in for updates on the supercards and for the interviews. With the exception of a few WCW Clash of the Champions specials and some Saturday night bouts, I would say the current state of television wrestling is terrible. If it wasn't for the interviews and pay-per-view info, I probably wouldn't watch at all. Then again, I would say it was pay-per-view that ruined television wrestling to begin with—and, more importantly, arena attendance.

About the only thing that would keep me away from the arena would be a skyrocket jump in ticket prices, Dave said, adding that *sadly, I think I would be better off if I didn't show up at all, because the quality of arena and television cards continues to sag. If it wasn't for the fact that wrestling rarely comes here anymore, and if magazines like PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED and PWI Weekly weren't around, I would probably stop being a fan altogether.*

I tune in to wrestling each and every week because I love this sport, which is human chess at its best, says Carl Louk of Prince George, Virginia. *I love hardcore kick-butt wrestling, not "circus-like atmosphere macabre cartoon family entertainment." That is why I will only watch organizations that promote this kind of wrestling, like NWA/WCW and independent promotions like Smoky Mountain Wrestling.*

Finally, here's just a portion of a lengthy and thoughtful letter from Master Sergeant (Retired) D.E. McLeod of Baltimore who offers a fascinating decades-wide perspective:

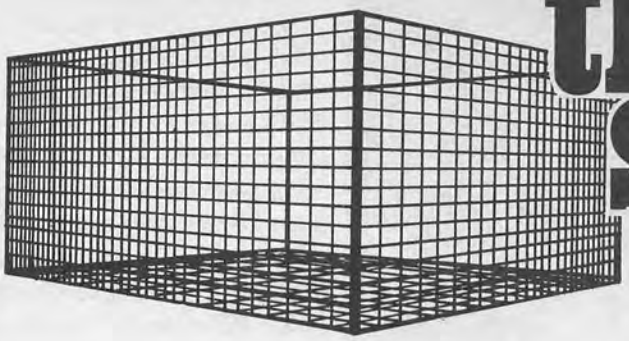
I grew up watching wrestling in the 1950s and 1960s. I remember the formation of the WWWF and attended some of its early matches here in Baltimore in 1963. I stopped watching wrestling about the time Pedro Morales was WWWF champion. While stationed in Massachusetts in 1980, I began to watch wrestling again (the WWF). I was curious enough to learn that wrestling had changed a great deal since I last watched it.

I haven't been to a live card since 1963. Why? Lots of reasons. Basically, even though I watch both WWF and WCW (WCW being my preferred choice), neither federation is offering me anything that would make me part with 50 bucks.

I won't even bother to discuss what disgusts me about the WWF! But I will tell you what ticks me off about WCW. First of all, WCW still continues to be a WWF wannabe. There is absolutely no continuity in WCW. Many times, I watch a feud start to brew in WCW and then nothing happens. First there is a TV champion, then not. Next there are U.S. tag team champions, then not. For goodness sakes! Make up your mind!

The love of money is the root of all evil in professional wrestling. I thought that it was a scream that one week Jim Ross was telling me that WCW was real wrestling and not a circus act, then the next week he was broadcasting for a three-ring circus called the WWF.

My thanks to everyone who responded. I don't know that we came up with any any definite answers to my questions, except perhaps the fact that everyone has a different and individual reason for watching this sport we all love so much. □



the steel cage

By Chris Bernucca

HIT THE ROAD, JACK. You have to wonder how someone with as little common sense as Jack Tunney has ascended to the position of WWF president. The man doesn't have a clue.

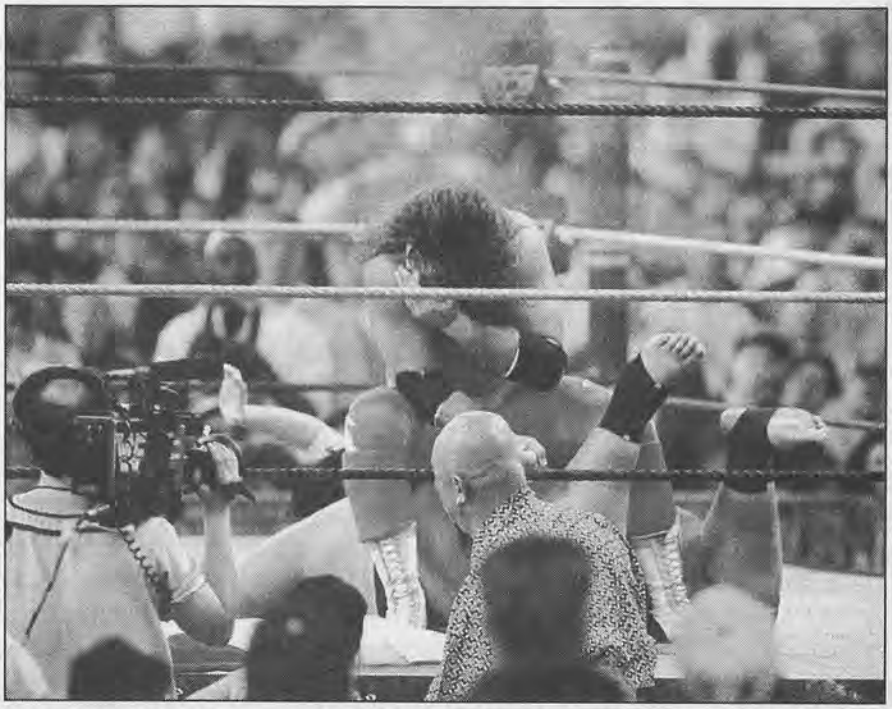
There he was again at the "King Of The Ring" pay-per-view event, congratulating Yokozuna for winning the WWF World title, handing out hosannas as if he were an ordained minister, looking entirely the part of the sport's biggest jackass. You almost expected him to mug for the camera and say, "Hi, Mom!"

I don't have a problem with Tunney congratulating the winner of the federation's most coveted prize. That occurs in all sports, usually in a champagne-soaked locker room. I don't have a problem with his praising Yokozuna for winning the title, either. As far as I'm concerned, every day without Hulk Hogan wearing the championship belt is a good one.

But Tunney has become the federation's poltergeist. He continues to mystify both WWF wrestlers and fans with his occasional sightings and frequent disappearances. And by offering his hand to the new WWF World champion, he was condoning the rulebreaking tactics employed by Yokozuna and his ever-growing entourage.

Apparently, the newest member of Yokozuna's flock, which already includes manager Mr. Fuji and a pair of rotating geisha girls, is a Japanese shutterbug who takes hotter pictures than the photographers at *Playboy*. Fuji had climbed upon the ring apron to torment Hogan, and the photographer also scaled the apron, presumably to get a close-up of the confrontation between the men. Instead, the photographer turned to Hogan and shot him with a fireball from his camera. The "Hulkster" became easy prey for Yokozuna, losing by pinfall.

Hogan suffered temporary blindness, which is slightly different than Tunney's powers of vision. The WWF president has what I like to call "selective blindness," seeing only what he chooses to see. This is not a unique quality. Most New York



The WrestleMania IX match that saw Bret Hart lose his belt to Yokozuna, who lost it to Hulk Hogan minutes later, is a tribute to Tunney's ineptitude.

City police officers have it.

I don't know if Tunney has been afflicted with selective blindness for his entire life. I do know that he has suffered from it for at least the past two years, which covers my tenure as a wrestling journalist. Late in 1991, Tunney held up the WWF World title following two championship matches between Hogan and The Undertaker. In the first one, Ric Flair was guilty of blatant interference, helping Undertaker win the belt. The outcome screamed for an overturning, but Tunney was quiet as a Kansas Sunday morning.

Instead, he positioned himself at ringside for the rematch one week later, and got knocked unconscious for his trouble. This time, the interference came from Paul Bearer, Undertaker's manager, and it backfired, with Hogan scoring the pin. Tunney, *who saw none of this because he was out cold*, held up the belt anyway, putting it up for grabs at the Royal Rumble.

The unpopularity of Tunney's ruling forced him to slink into hiding. He was not present at the Royal Rumble, or WrestleMania VIII, or SummerSlam '92. The joke going around the office was that he'd moved into a cabin in the Northwest Territories of Canada with NHL President John Zeigler, another organization head who had a penchant for vanishing when needed most.

Tunney finally resurfaced near the end of 1992, which should have served as a warning to all concerned. Apparently, things had been running too smoothly and The Great Vacillator had returned to screw them up.

In March, Yokozuna and WWF World champion Bret Hart used national TV to glorify what was a non-story—the official signing of their title match at WrestleMania IX. Tunney was present, apparently to lend cre-

WWF President Jack Tunney doesn't have a clue as to how to execute the duties of his office, says Chris Bernucca.

dence to the event and re-establish himself as head honcho in the eyes of wrestlers and fans.

But hadn't the WWF already declared that the winner of the Royal Rumble—Yokozuna—would receive an automatic shot at the title? Hadn't Tunney been involved in that ruling? Hadn't everyone not residing in an igloo known that Yokozuna and Hart would be combatants at WrestleMania? What was Tunney trying to prove?

The signing did not come off as smoothly as Tunney had planned. Right before his eyes, Yokozuna attacked Hart and severely injured him. This was akin to Lennox Lewis walking into Riddick Bowe's training camp and hitting him with a baseball bat. Plain as day, Tunney had seen Yokozuna's attack, had seen Hart struggle to his feet and limp out of the ring, had seen grounds to disqualify the sumo star. And he did nothing. Perhaps he was knocked unconscious again.

WrestleMania IX became Tunney's shrine of ineptitude. Hart had Yokozuna beaten when Fuji tossed salt in his eyes. Yokozuna pinned Hart and Hogan intervened. Fuji challenged Hogan, who pinned Yokozuna in an impromptu match in which the bell never rang. It was an embarrassing moment for the WWF that could have been eradicated and rectified with one steadfast ruling from the federation president.

But Tunney was nowhere to be found. Perhaps he was at his cabin in the Northwest Territories, chopping wood for the long, cold winter ahead. After viewing videotape one day later, The Great Vacillator ruled that the whirlwind events of WrestleMania would stand and Hogan would remain champion.

There are many who believe that Tunney has always been in Hogan's corner. The events at the "King Of The Ring" card obviously indicate that he works in a round room, pacing 180 degrees every time he feels the need to make a decision. In a position which requires backbone, substance, and conviction, he is a hologram, superimposing his hollow rulings upon a federation badly in need of direction from its most powerful executive.

I can't think of a president who has been more inept. Can you? □

BY EDDIE ELLNER

off the Top Rope

If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE, Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

AS HOGAN BLOWS, so blows the WWF; anyone who believes otherwise snuggles with Barney the dinosaur before bedtime. Unfortunately, only Hogan enjoys the freedom to take what he pleases when he pleases. The Steiners recently stormed the ring after Money Inc. and challenged DiBiase and I.R.S. to a title match right then and there. What do they think they are? Tan and bald with muscles not quite as large as they once were? Despite Vince McMahon's impassioned urging, Money Inc. took their belts and their butts to the dressing room where they belong. It's the champions' right to choose the hows, whens, whys, and wheres they will defend their title. But the Steiners, inspired by Hogan's WrestleMania title heist, gave it their best shot. Then they gave it a better shot not long after and actually won the belts. The point, though, is they had to wait; Hogan didn't. For in Hogan's WWF, only the "Hulkster" himself enjoys executive privilege—and his shameless abuse of it is an embarrassment to the sacred office of champion. I say enough's enough: Let's have him put to sleep.

Here he is, folks, on another stop of his ongoing crusade to corrupt the youth of America. Stop him before he lies again!

Dear Mr. Ellner,

These are grim times for the youth of America. I am disgusted by the message sent out by Hulk Hogan to his legion of little "Hulksters." Prior to WrestleMania IX, Hogan implored his fans to believe in Hulk Hogan. How does he repay that belief? He cheats in his aborted tag team title challenge; steals money and throws it to the crowd; insults Yokozuna, who is Samoan, by calling him a Jap; and forces the federation into sanctioning his ludicrous championship victory. Any positive influence Hogan could have on impressionable young people is eradicated by his cheating, stealing, and racist behavior. With heroes like these, who needs bad guys?

DR. TOM GALLAGHER
Lexington, KY

Dear Dr. Gallagher,

You have so eloquently described my position—and in pen, no less. I can only assume

(Continued on page 66)

60 WEAR-DOWN HOLDS

1. AIRPLANE SPIN
2. ARMBAR
3. ARMDRAG
4. ARMLOCK
5. ARM STRETCH
6. ARM WHIP
7. ASIAN SPIKE
8. BEAR HUG
9. BITING
10. BODY SLAM
11. BODY TACKLE
12. CHICKEN WING
13. CHOKE
14. CLAW
15. CLOTHESLINE
16. CROSS BODY BLOCK
17. DOUBLE-AXE HANDLE
18. DROP KICK
19. EAGLE SPLIT
20. ELBOW SMASH
21. EYE GOUGE
22. FACE RAKE
23. FIREMAN'S CARRY RAM
24. FLYING BODY PRESS
25. FLYING CLOTHESLINE
26. FLYING DROP KICK
27. FLYING ELBOW DROP
28. FLYING HEAD BUTT
29. FLYING MARE
30. FOREARM SMASH
31. FOREIGN OBJECT
32. FULL NELSON
33. GIANT SWING
34. GRAPEVINE
35. HAIR PULLING
36. HAMMERLOCK
37. HEAD LOCK
38. HEAD STOMP
39. HEART PUNCH
40. HIP ROLL
41. IRISH WHIP
42. KNEE DROP
43. LEGLOCK
44. MANAGER INTERFERENCE
45. MONKEY FLIP
46. OVERHEAD TOSS
47. POLE RAM
48. REVERSE CHINLOCK
49. ROLLING SCISSORS
50. ROPE BURN
51. SAVATTE KICK
52. SCISSORS GRIP
53. SHOULDER BREAKER
54. SLINGSHOT
55. SNAP MARE
56. STEP-OVER TOE HOLD
57. SUPLEX
58. SURFBOARD
59. TURNBUCKLE SMASH
60. WRISTLOCK

30 SET-UP HOLDS

61. ABDOMINAL STRETCH
62. ATOMIC DROP
63. AVALANCHE
64. BACKBREAKER
65. BACKROLL PRESS
66. BELLY TO BELLY
67. BIG SPLASH
68. BOSTON CRAB
69. BRAIN BUSTER
70. BULLDOG
71. CAMEL CLUTCH
72. COBRA CLUTCH
73. CRADLE
74. CRUCIFIX
75. D.D.T.
76. FIGURE FOUR
77. FLYING LEG DROP
78. GOURD BUSTER
79. INDIAN DEATH LOCK
80. NECKBREAKER
81. PILEDRIVER
82. POWER BOMB
83. POWER SLAM
84. RUSSIAN SICKLE
85. SLEEPER
86. SLINGSHOT SUPLEX
87. SMALL PACKAGE
88. SPINE BUSTER
89. SUNSET FLIP
90. SUPERPLEX

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WRESTLER'S NAME (NO ACTUAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES, PLEASE)

WRESTLER'S HEIGHT WRESTLER'S WEIGHT

MANAGER'S NAME (IF NOT YOU)

WRESTLER'S SPECIAL GIMMICK PWI0693

Wear-Down Holds: choose 10 from the list of 60 shown at left. List them in order. Use each only once.

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

6_____ 7_____ 8_____ 9_____ 10_____

Set-Up Holds: choose 5 from the list of 30 shown at left. List them in order. Use each only once.

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

Finishing Hold: create "custom" final maneuver or choose a hold from either list shown at left. Limit the length to 20 letters and spaces:

FINISHING HOLD

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

PWI's Top 10

Tracey Smothers

TOP 10

1 BIG VAN VADER
404, Denver, CO
(1) WCW World champion

2 LEX LUGER
290, Chicago, IL
(-) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

3 DAVEY BOY SMITH
245, Leeds, England
(-) No. 1 contender: WCW World title

4 BARRY WINDHAM
263, Sweetwater, TX
(7) NWA champion

5 MARTY JANNETTY
230, Columbia, GA
(-) WWF Intercontinental champion

6 STING
260, Venice Beach, CA
(2) No. 4 contender: WCW World title

7 SHAWN MICHAELS
220, San Antonio, TX
(5) No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title

8 CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN
(6) No. 2 contender: WWF I-C title

9 THE KID
201, Tampa, FL
(-) No. 3 contender: WWF I-C title

10 TRACEY SMOTHERS
227, Atlanta, GA
(10) Smoky Mountain champion

TAG TEAMS

1 STEVE AUSTIN & BRIAN PILLMAN
Combined weight: 467 pounds
(1) WCW World tag team champions

2 HULK HOGAN & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
Combined weight: 573 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title

3 THE HEADSHRINKERS
Combined weight: 520 pounds
(-) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title

4 2 COLD SCORPIO & MARCUS BAGWELL
Combined weight: 460 pounds
(8) No. 1 contenders: WCW tag title

5 MONEY INC.
Combined weight: 492 pounds
(2) WWF World tag team champions

6 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
Combined weight: 453 pounds
(9) Smoky Mountain tag team champions

7 RICK STEAMBOAT & SHANE DOUGLAS
Combined weight: 461 pounds
(5) No. 2 contenders: WCW tag title

8 REX KING & STEVE DOLL
Combined weight: 477 pounds
(7) USWA tag team champions

9 RICK RUDE & PAUL ORNDORFF
Combined weight: 499 pounds
(-) No. 3 contenders: WCW tag title

10 RICK & SCOTT STEINER
Combined weight: 483 pounds
(3) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title

WCW
World Champion:
BIG VAN VADER
(C) 404, Denver, CO

1—BARRY WINDHAM
(3) 263, Sweetwater, TX
2—DUSTIN RHODES
(1) 254, Austin, TX
3—DAVEY BOY SMITH
(9) 245, Leeds, England
4—STING
(2) 260, Venice Beach, CA
5—RICK RUDE
(4) 246, Robbinsdale, MN
6—SID VICIOUS
(-) 318, West Memphis, AR
7—ARN ANDERSON
(-) 249, Minneapolis, MN
8—PAUL ORNDORFF
(5) 253, Brandon, FL
9—MAXX PAYNE
(7) 350, Iowa City, IA
10—RICK STEAMBOAT
(-) 238, Honolulu, HI

WWF
World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
(C) 300, Venice Beach, CA

1—MARTY JANNETTY
(-) 230, Columbia, GA
2—LEX LUGER
(10) 290, Chicago, IL
3—CURT HENNIG
(4) 235, Minneapolis, MN
4—BRET HART
(2) 235, Calgary, Alberta
5—SHAWN MICHAELS
(1) 220, San Antonio, TX
6—YOKOZUNA
(3) 505, Samoa
7—TATANKA
(5) 260, Miami, FL
8—THE KID
(-) 201, Tampa, FL
9—RANDY SAVAGE
(-) 245, Sarasota, FL
10—CRUSH
(-) 310, Honolulu, HI

GLOBAL
North American Champion:
STEVIE RAY
(C) 265, Dallas, TX

1—ANGEL OF DEATH
(1) 310, Los Angeles, CA
2—CALVIN KNAPP
(-) 231, Dallas, TX
3—JOHN HAWK
(-) 280, Sweetwater, TX
4—CHRIS ADAMS
(-) 228, Stratford, England
5—ICEMAN PARSONS
(-) 245, St. Louis, MO
6—MIKE DAVIS
(-) 235, Tampa, FL
7—BLACK BART
(4) 261, Pampa, TX
8—GUIDO FALCONE
(6) 245, Dallas, TX
9—KILLER BROOKS
(-) 254, Waxahachie, TX
10—TERRY SIMMS
(2) 220, South San Francisco, CA

USWA
USWA champion:
PAPA SHANGO
(-) 340, parts unknown

1—JERRY LAWLER
(C) 234, Memphis, TN
2—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
(4) 230, Memphis, TN
3—JEFF JARRETT
(1) 220, Hendersonville, TN
4—KOKO B. WARE
(7) 229, Union City, TN
5—JEFF GAYLORD
(5) 280, St. Louis, MO
6—BILLY TRAVIS
(-) 218, Houston, TX
7—WOLFIE D
(8) 250, parts unknown
8—DAN DAVIS
(3) 218, Nashville, TN
9—ROCK 'N' ROLL PHANTOM
(10) 245, parts unknown
10—STEVE MARINO
(-) 227, Memphis, TN

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

For period ended May 25, 1993

MOST POPULAR

1. **HULK HOGAN**
   300, Venice, CA
   Last Issue: No. 1 Most Popular
2. **DAVEY BOY SMITH**
   245, Leeds, England
   Last Issue: No. 7 Most Popular
3. **MARTY JANNETTY**
   230, Columbia, GA
   Last Issue: unrated
4. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   Last Issue: No. 2 Most Popular
5. **BRET HART**
   235, Calgary, Alberta
   Last Issue: No. 4 Most Popular
6. **DUSTIN RHODES**
   254, Austin, TX
   Last Issue: No. 6 Most Popular
7. **THE KID**
   201, Tampa, FL
   Last Issue: unrated
8. **CURT HENNIG**
   235, Minneapolis, MN
   Last Issue: No. 5 Most Popular
9. **2 COLD SCORPIO**
   222, Denver, CO
   Last Issue: No. 8 Most Popular
10. **JEFF JARRETT**
    220, Hendersonville, TN
    Last Issue: unrated

MOST HATED

1. **BIG VAN VADER**
   404, Denver, CO
   Last Issue: No. 1 Most Hated
2. **YOKOZUNA**
   505, Samoa
   Last Issue: No. 2 Most Hated
3. **LEX LUGER**
   290, Chicago, IL
   Last Issue: unrated
4. **RICK RUDE**
   246, Robbinsdale, MN
   Last Issue: No. 3 Most Hated
5. **BARRY WINDHAM**
   263, Sweetwater, TX
   Last Issue: No. 5 Most Hated
6. **PAUL ORNDORFF**
   253, Brandon, FL
   Last Issue: No. 4 Most Hated
7. **SID VICIOUS**
   318, West Memphis, AR
   Last Issue: unrated
8. **TONY ANTHONY**
   235, Bucksnort, TN
   Last Issue: No. 6 Most Hated
9. **MR. HUGHES**
   308, Kansas City, KS
   Last Issue: unrated
10. **PAPA SHANGO**
    340, parts unknown
    Last Issue: unrated

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1-Bret Hart.....73 points
2-Big Van Vader.....54 points
3-Ron Simmons.....49 points
4-Shawn Michaels.....40 points
4-Rick Rude.....40 points

TAG TEAMS

1-Money Inc.....73 points
2-Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas...57 points
3-Steve Austin & Brian Pillman.....47 points
4-Rick & Scott Steiner.....45 points
5-The Nasty Boys.....35 points

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

Smoky Mountain champion:
TITLE HELD UP

To be determined

1. **TRACEY SMOTHERS**
   (2) 227, Atlanta, GA
2. **TONY ANTHONY**
   (C) 235, Bucksnort, TN
3. **BRIAN LEE**
   (4) 251, Los Angeles, CA
4. **KILLER KYLE**
   (8) 303, Atlanta, GA
5. **TIM HORNER**
   (3) 235, Morristown, TN
6. **KEVIN SULLIVAN**
   (6) 252, Boston, MA
7. **RICK MORTON**
   (-) 228, Memphis, TN
8. **TOM PRICHARD**
   (-) 220, Houston, TX
9. **MONGOLIAN STOMPER**
   (-) 239, Mongolia
10. **CHRIS CANDIDO**
    (10) 226, Carteret, NJ

IWCCW

IWCCW champion:
TITLE VACANT

To be determined in tourney

1. **GREG VALENTINE**
   (-) 243, Seattle, WA
2. **HERCULES**
   (-) 255, Tampa, FL
3. **KOKO B. WARE**
   (-) 229, Union City, TN
4. **TONY ATLAS**
   (-) 247, Roanoke, VA
5. **JOE SAVOLDI**
   (1) 220, Parsippany, NJ
6. **LANCE VON ERICH**
   (-) 260, Arlington, TX
7. **KENDALL WINDHAM**
   (-) 220, Sweetwater, TX
8. **TASMANIAC**
   (3) 232, Tasmania
9. **TOMMY DREAMER**
   (5) 245, Yonkers, NY
10. **JOHNNY WILDSIDE**
    (9) 285, parts unknown

BIG D: Big D champion—Bill Irwin; **1**—Terry Simms; **2**—Big D; **3**—Steven Dane; **4**—Guido Falcone; **5**—Calvin Knapp; **6**—Gary Young; **7**—Scott Braddock; **8**—Action Jackson; **9**—Jimmy James; **10**—Kit Carson.

ECW: ECW champion—Don Muraco; **1**—The Sandman; **2**—Eddie Gilbert; **3**—Terry Funk; **4**—Jimmy Snuka; **5**—Salvatore Bellomo; **6**—Hawk; **7**—Johnny Hot Body; **8**—J.T. Smith; **9**—Ivan Koloff; **10**—Tony Stetson.

ICWA: ICWA champion—Frankie Rose; **1**—Cuban Assassin; **2**—Jumbo Barretta; **3**—Billy Mack; **4**—Jeff Bradley; **5**—Rico Federico; **6**—Jim Backlund; **7**—Gary Nice; **8**—Lord Of Discipline; **9**—Bill Tyree; **10**—Verne Henderson.

PWA: PWA champion—The Hater; **1**—Charlie Norris; **2**—Nailz; **3**—Hawk; **4**—Lightning Kid; **5**—Brad Rheingans; **6**—Tommy Ferrara; **7**—Derrick Dukes; **8**—Randy Gusto; **9**—Billy Blaze; **10**—Larry Cameron.

PWF: PWF champion—Italian Stallion; **1**—George South; **2**—Cruel Connection II; **3**—Flaming Youth; **4**—Scotty McKeever; **5**—Terry Austin; **6**—Star Ryder; **7**—Killdozer; **8**—Russian Assassin I; **9**—Mad Dog; **10**—Russian Assassin II.

USA: USA TV champion—Col. DeBeers; **1**—Max Steele; **2**—Jesse Barr; **3**—Lou Andrews; **4**—C.W. Bergstrom; **5**—Bruiser Brian; **6**—Bart Sawyer; **7**—Dane Rush; **8**—John Rambo; **9**—Karl Pope; **10**—Jim Pope.

WWA: WWA champion—The Spider; **1**—Shasheem; **2**—Ed The Razor; **3**—Chris Evans; **4**—Boy Gone Bad; **5**—Chris Candido; **6**—Bobby Salsa; **7**—Abbuda Singh; **8**—Duane Gill; **9**—Barry Hardy; **10**—Scott Vida.

WWC: WWC Universal champion—Carlos Colon; **1**—The Mountie; **2**—Killer Karl Wallace; **3**—Invader I; **4**—Don Harris; **5**—Ron Harris; **6**—Ricky Santana; **7**—Mohammed Hussein; **8**—Giant Warrior; **9**—Jose Luis Rivera; **10**—Abdullah the Butcher.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 20 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

How could we be so cold? The most obvious question for readers of this month's ratings concerns the absence of the tag team of **2 Cold Scorpio** and **Marcus Alexander Bagwell**. First, rest assured that nothing has happened to them, nor have they broken up. Well, let's alter that a bit. They were briefly separated in early June, enabling Scorpio to work solo before the appreciative aerial fans of Japan. We're sure he made a "splash" (pardon the pun) in **Jushin Liger** country. Bagwell meanwhile used a few substitute partners on cards here in North America. But since 2 Cold and Marcus didn't compete together for most of the month, they don't qualify for a tag team rating. Hey, **Hulk Hogan** wasn't in our Top 10 even before losing the WWF World title to **Yokozuna** due to similar (solo) inactivity.

Scorpio & Bagwell

And since we're speaking of tag teams, let's salute **Rick** & **Scott Steiner**, who finally wrested the WWF World tag team title from **Irwin R. Schyster** & **Ted DiBiase**–just days before we went to press!

On the roller coaster. Or perhaps an elevator–anything to describe **Shawn Michaels'** recent ups and downs. Back in the August 1993 PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, the "Boy Toy" was rated fifth in our Top 10. Then he lost his WWF Intercontinental title to **Marty Jannetty** and fell to 10th in September; some members of our editorial board wanted him off the chart altogether. However, Michaels impressively regained the I-C belt from Jannetty in June and soared back to number five. Will he stay there long or take another quick tumble? Pardon the cliche, but time will tell.

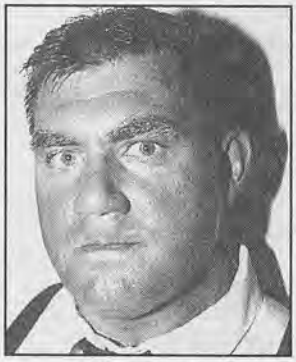
Like old times. Ever since commercial television began in the late 1940s, it's been closely allied with wrestling. Not that long ago, nearly every market seemingly had a local weekly program, broadcast from the station's studio or a downtown auditorium. It was easy to telecast and inexpensive to produce. But syndication and pay-per-view became even cheaper, and these shows sadly went the way of the small-town, mom-and-pop department store after the Wal-Mart opened on the bypass.

One survivor remains, however–*USWA Championship Wrestling*, aired each Saturday. Originating from WMC-TV, it's as much a Memphis tradition as Sun Records or Beale Street. Most important, it remains true to its roots ... intimate and interesting. **Jerry Lawler** and his subjects provide first-class wrestling, enjoyable interviews, and lots of personality.

Consider a recent telecast. "The King" tastefully paid tribute to **Earnest Everhart**, who had suddenly died at age 36; he had worked security at WMC and was nicknamed "Jerry Lawler's bodyguard." Clips were shown from Everhart's frequent appearances on USWA telecasts.

Then, **Scotty Flamingo** came on, confessing that he was actually **Johnny Polo**, scion of a wealthy family, but heretofore unable to reveal his real identity due to their embarrassment. He announced he was leaving USWA to manage **Adam Bomb** in the WWF, but had a going-away present for his friend **Brian Christopher**–the services of his boyhood nanny, **Miss Simpson**. Christopher initially declined, but changed his mind when he saw she was tall and leggy (picture a blonde **Fifi**, minus the French accent). Later on, Miss Simpson and **Miss Texas** began fighting as part of a free-for-all featuring Christopher and **Jeff Jarrett**.

Manager **Mike Samples** then introduced former Oregon high school principal **C.W. Bergstrom**, who had been fired for being too rough on his students. Bergstrom vowed to give the USWA the same kind of discipline, and began by defeating **Freezer Thompson**.


Mike Samples

All this before barely about 100 or so delighted onlookers in a studio that makes the cozy Manhattan Center–home of *WWF Monday Night Raw*–look as cavernous as the Tokyo Dome. Great atmosphere; you can almost imagine yourself back in 1951, hearing **Dennis James** interview **Gorgeous George**. The Saturday telecasts, though they certainly stand on their own, also help the USWA boost attendance for its cards the following Monday night.

And it's always there each Saturday, week in and week out. Other federations, no matter how big or small, should get the hint.

We want your two cents' worth. Do you have any ratings, offbeat or otherwise? What do you think of our rankings? We want to know. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 956, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

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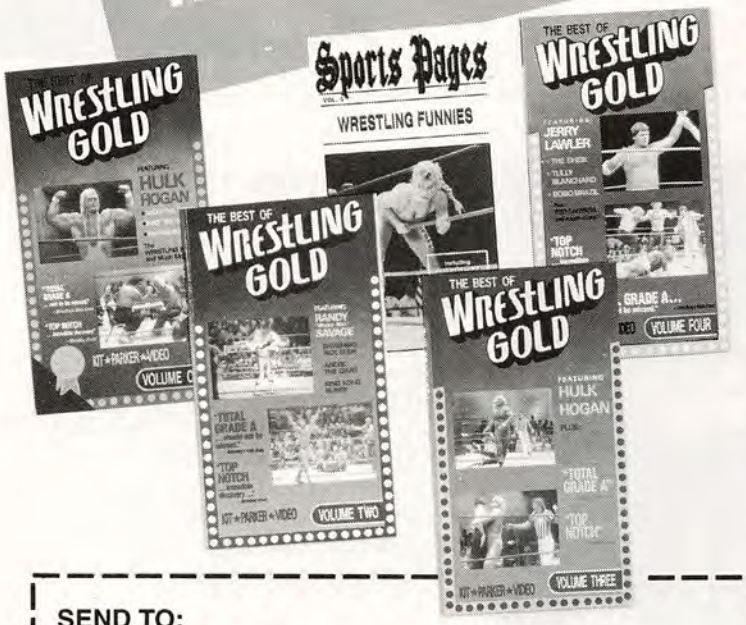

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Terry Taylor vs. Sabu
Wahoo McDaniel, Tommy Rogers, & Marty Jannetty vs. Ted Oates & The Grapplers

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Eddie Gilbert vs. Jerry Lawler (with interference by Rick Rude and Jimmy Hart)

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time capsules

BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW LON CHANEY WRESTLED (OR WAS IT LON CHANEY JR.?)

Did he emerge mysteriously from the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris? No one was really sure, but The Hunchback made his mark in the Southwest during the mid-1960s. Here, bell and all, he makes his way to the ring in Houston for his U.S debut; in that match, he defeated Gory Guerrero. Fortunately, the referees always ordered Quasimodo to keep the bell out of the ring, or there's no telling what damage he might have caused.

KEEPING 'EM OFF THE STREETS

Miguel Perez was among the most popular wrestlers to hail from Puerto Rico in the 1950s and 1960s. But his work wasn't confined to the ring. Perez owned a gymnasium in the East Bronx, where he helped area youths avoid the temptations of city life. He returned to Puerto Rico after investing in real estate there, and now is an official with the World Wrestling Council. He trained his son, the equally popular Miguel Perez Jr.

YOU CAN FIND BOTH JACKETS AT GOODWILL

Fashions have certainly changed since this picture of Gordon Solie (left) and Jack Brisco was taken in 1974. Solie—who has broadcast professional wrestling since 1959—is currently broadcasting for WCW. Brisco is shown displaying the NWA World title he had won from Harley Race. The former Oklahoma State star and master of the figure-four now owns a body shop with his brother in Tampa, Florida.

HEY—WHERE WAS HIS BROTHER GEORGE?

We don't know, but the master of the piano, Liberace (second from left) is shown here in a 1961 shot from Las Vegas (of course!) with Handsome Johnny Barend, Abdullah Farouk, and Magnificent Maurice. Some fans may know Farouk better under his later name, the Grand Wizard (more on him elsewhere on this page). No word as to whether the three visitors were here for piano lessons or simply wanted to see the scores of candelabras now displayed in the Liberace Museum.

Every other month, ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated*** *will pore through its massive photo collection to bring you some of the most unique photographs the mat world has every seen!*

DOM DeLUISE AND PAUL PRUDHOMME, EAT YOUR HEART OUT!

Many a wrestler is a connoisseur of haute cuisine, and Mighty Igor was no exception. Here, he is aided by Tex McKenzie as he prepares to chow down on some fine food. The childish Igor wrestled throughout the Midwest in the 1970s, and was most noted for his feuds with Bulldog Brower and The Sheik.

HERE'S WHAT THEY MEAN BY A REALLY *BIG* SHOW

Although his thick French accent hardly made him the ideal American talk show guest, Andre the Giant's size and winning personality more than compensated. He is chatting on the *Tonight* show in August of 1974 with guest host Joey Bishop, a one-time Johnny Carson rival who chose to switch instead of fight. Most of Andre's opponents felt much the same way.

WELL, GUYS, WHAT RULES *HAVEN'T* WE BROKEN YET?

This triumvirate of managers—Fred Blassie (standing left), Captain Lou Albano, and The Grand Wizard (kneeling)—were running roughshod over the WWF when this shot was taken in August of 1982. All three were rulebreakers, although the Captain eventually saw the light. Younger fans may be surprised to learn Hulk Hogan was a Blassie protege in 1979! Albano specialized in tag teams (12 teams, 16 WWF titles), while the Wizard counted dozens of grapplers in his stable.

COME ON, IT'S JUST PROMOTION!

Terry Funk (right) seems a bit reluctant to share his NWA World title belt with Mil Mascaras, even if it's only to boost interest in their upcoming championship match in January of 1977. While Funk would win to retain the title, perhaps he foresaw what was coming; the following month, his year-plus reign ended when Harley Race recaptured the championship.

THE MAN WHO GOT THEM GOING

Bruno Sammartino (left) and Bob Backlund (right) certainly rank among the greats in WWF history, both in popularity and ability. But how many recall who managed both of these superstars? He's Arnold Skaaland, and he flanks both champs in this shot from March of 1979. How successful was Skaaland? Ponder this statistic: Either Sammartino or Backlund was WWF champ for all but three years of a two-decade span between 1963 and 1983!

press conference...

Sid Vicious stunned WCW twice: first by returning under the management of Col. Parker, then by joining forces with Big Van Vader.

SID VICIOUS

WHEN SID VICIOUS returned to WCW in mid-May, the general consensus was that the 6'8" 318-pound muscleman would resume his temporarily suspended assault on the WCW World heavyweight title. The general consensus was wrong. Shortly after arriving, he formed an alliance with the champion himself, Big Van Vader.

It's an incredible duo. Each possesses an awesome power bomb, a potentially crippling maneuver both men have used to disable several opponents. Vader, for his part, has used it on Sting, Nikita Koloff, Cactus Jack, and Ron Simmons. Could Vicious be next?

Vicious, known as Sid Justice in the WWF, is one of wrestling's most notorious underachievers. When he came out of West Memphis, Arkansas, in the late 1980s, everyone thought he was bound for heavyweight superstardom. But, after a failed alliance with The Four Horsemen, Sid stalled in WCW. He jumped to the WWF and targeted the title, but was eventually upstaged by Hulk Hogan. He left the federation after losing to the "Hulkster" at WrestleMania VIII.

After that, Sid wrestled only once (teaming with Johnny Rotten at the Kerry Von Erich memorial card in early April) before returning to WCW and becoming Vicious again. To the surprise of many, he returned with a manager, Col. Robert Parker. The one constant in Sid's inconsistent career has been bad management and poor advice. Again he seems willing to put himself in someone else's hands.

*Shortly after coming back to WCW, Vicious took some time out from a heavy training session to speak with **PWI** Senior Writer Dave Rosenbaum, Managing Editor V.J. Paterno, and Associate Publisher Craig Peters. He once again proved that he's not just some dumb muscleman, but actually a pretty bright guy.*

DAVE ROSENBAUM: Let's get right to the point, Sid. When are you going to wrestle Vader?

CRAIG PETERS: Boy, you've never heard of tact, have you, Dave?

SID VICIOUS: **That's fine with me. I don't like glazing over the facts, so if you have something to ask me, just ask it. The answer is, I don't know.**

V.J. PATERNO: You don't know?

VICIOUS: **That's what I said. Need an explanation?**

ROSENBAUM: We wouldn't mind one. After all, it doesn't make sense for you to be friends with Vader. He has the belt.

VICIOUS: **Who said friends can't wrestle?**

PATERNO: Well...

VICIOUS: **Well, nothing. Vader and I have an understanding. We can speak honestly with each other, and when I'm ready to wrestle him, I'll let him know it. I guarantee he won't say no.**

ROSENBAUM: I heard him say he'd beat you no problem.

VICIOUS: **He's confident. I'm confident. He wouldn't stand a chance, but it would be a tough match.**

PETERS: Is that a prediction?

VICIOUS: **No, it's a fact. Vader's a great champion, one of the best in WCW history, but he's not unbeatable. He knows that. We talk about it all the time.**

"I'll wrestle Vader when I'm ready to beat him the first time with three beats of the arm."

PATERNO: You talk about his weaknesses?

VICIOUS: **We talk about mine, too. It's a short discussion.**

ROSENBAUM: Very sharp. So when's it going to happen?

VICIOUS: **I told you. I don't know.**

PETERS: What's your idea of ready?

VICIOUS: **I've seen plenty of challengers take 20 matches and they're not ready to win the belt until the 15th. Eventually, the champion's going to make a mistake and lose, but that's not fair. I'll wrestle Vader when I'm ready to beat him the first time with three beats of the arm. That's when.**

PATERNO: Does Col. Parker have a schedule for you?

VICIOUS: **If he does, he's not saying. The Colonel's different from the others. He doesn't put pressure on me. He wants the title and he knows I want the title. The plan is to proceed cautiously. I'm young. There's plenty of time.**

ROSENBAUM: I hope this doesn't come off sounding wrong, but you sound more mature, Sid.

VICIOUS: **Are you saying I'm not mature?**

(Continued on page 52)

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.

NWA OR WCW...

WCW's restoration of the NWA title has been an abject failure. In a sport already muddled with confusion, the dual titles have just further confused fans and wrestlers. It is time for the federation to pick three letters–and stick with them

THEY CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS!

Barry Windham (opposite) is NWA champion. Big Van Vader (right) is WCW World champion. Which man sits atop WCW? Both would say themselves, but nobody else knows for sure.

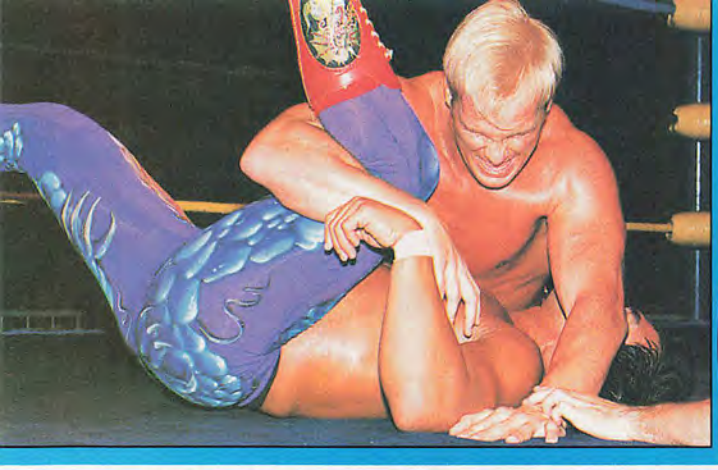
By Stu Saks

THE HOLLYWOOD BLONDS strutted down the runway toward the ring. The bravado that Steve Austin and Brian Pillman carry with them was certainly present, but something else normally in their possession was clearly missing.

The duo—the NWA and WCW World tag team champions—usually arrive for matches wearing one set of belts, with the other draped over their shoulder. This time, though, they wore just the WCW championship hardware.

Are Austin and Pillman still the NWA World tag team champions? Of course. But here's a better question: Does anyone *care* that they are still NWA champs?

In fact, outside of NWA champion Barry Windham, seven-time former NWA titleholder Ric Flair, a handful of Japanese competitors, and



Steve Austin goes for the pin on Rick Steamboat during an NWA/WCW World tag team title defense. The lineage of the tag team championships is not as snarled as the split histories of the singles titles.

some U.S. old-timers, does anyone even recognize the NWA?

The answer, sadly, is no.

In resurrecting the NWA, WCW hoped to add a sense of history and prestige to its federation. Instead, all it has done is confuse wrestlers and fans while diminishing the value of its other championship belts.

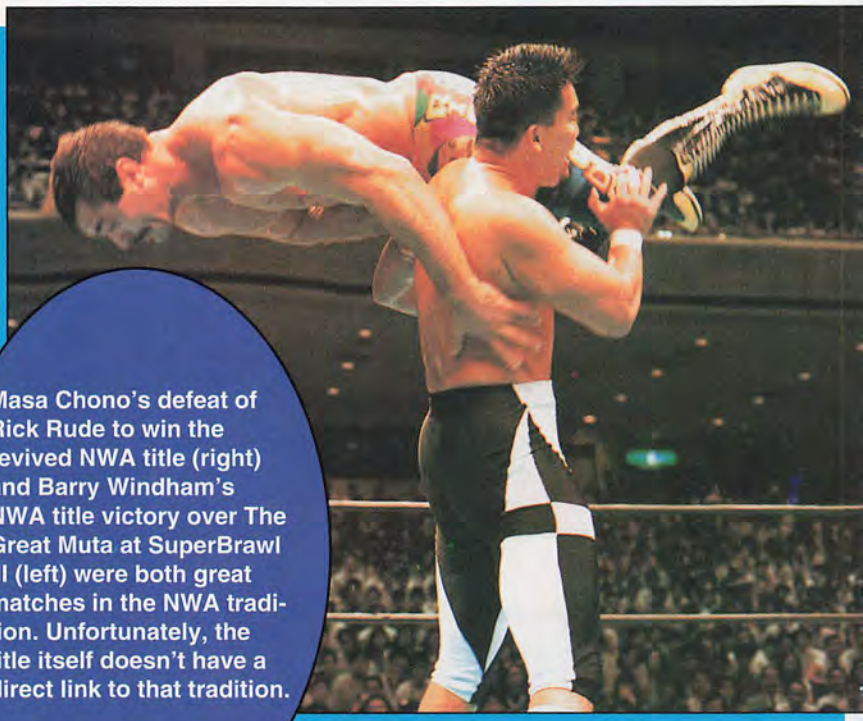
What does a WCW competitor mean when he says he is going after the world title? Is he going after Windham's NWA title? Or is he pursuing the belt held by WCW World champion Big Van Vader?

Who should be the top-ranked singles wrestler in WCW? Should it be Windham, the NWA champion? Or Vader, the WCW World champion?

Which title carries more prestige? The NWA's, which has the acronym that ties it to the origins of professional wrestling in America? Or the WCW's, which carries the actual championship lineage dating to the turn of the 20th century?

Ask five wrestlers these questions and you will get five different answers.

Flair returned to WCW earlier this year seeking to reclaim "the belt he never lost." That would be the NWA belt. Unfortunately for the "Nature Boy," a tournament was held to determine his successor after he left WCW as champ in mid-1991. Lex Luger defeated Windham in the finals and became WCW World champion. The NWA name had been dropped. The belt Flair "never lost" is now draped over the shoulder of Vader.



Masa Chono's defeat of Rick Rude to win the revived NWA title (right) and Barry Windham's NWA title victory over The Great Muta at SuperBrawl III (left) were both great matches in the NWA tradition. Unfortunately, the title itself doesn't have a direct link to that tradition.

Suppose Flair had never left WCW and lost the title to Luger, the number-one contender, that July night in 1991. Luger, in turn, relinquished the belt to Sting, who lost it to Vader, who lost it to Ron Simmons, who lost it back to Vader, who lost it to Sting, who lost it back to Vader. So which belt should the "Nature Boy" be pursuing?

Flair says he wants the NWA title currently held by Windham, but the history of that belt is less than a year old. In August of 1992, Masa Chono won the title by defeating Rick Rude in a tournament final. He later lost the belt to The Great Muta, who dropped it to Windham at SuperBrawl III in February.

(As an aside, we should be grateful that Chono defeated Rude in the final. Rude was U.S. champ at the time, and winning the tourney would have forced him to drop one of the belts. Had Rude won, he may have kept the U.S. belt and dropped the NWA title, to the embarrassment of WCW executives trying to restore importance to the NWA name.)

Former WCW champion Ron Simmons tries to take current WCW champion Big Van Vader down with a sunset flip. Both men are battling for what they feel is WCW's top belt—but is it?

Because Flair is a 20-year veteran, a nine-time world champion, and one of the sport's all-time greats, his words carry a great deal of weight. But this is one instance where he's misinformed. Flair apparently won't acknowledge there have been some major changes in WCW since his departure, the biggest one being the three initials preceding the federation's most coveted prize.

The tag team title picture is less complicated, because one team has always held both sets of belts. Steve Williams and Terry Gordy won the WCW title from Rick and Scott Steiner in June of 1992, then captured the NWA tourney final from Windham and Dustin Rhodes two weeks later. Windham and Rhodes defeated Williams and Gordy in September, then lost both sets of belts to Rick Steamboat and Shane Douglas in November. Austin and Pillman won both titles in January.

The big losers here, as usual, are the fans, many of whom aren't quite sure who is WCW's top dog. Vader was clearly the federation's champion until Flair returned and began shooting off his mouth. Caught up in the hysteria of the "Nature Boy's" return, some fans believe Windham's NWA belt carries the most prestige.

But if that's so, why did Cactus Jack challenge Vader? Why has Davey Boy Smith entered WCW with his sights on Vader? Why does Sting continue his relentless pursuit of Vader? None of these three challengers have targeted Windham's title, though Sting's feuded with him in the past.

The only solution is to have Windham wrestle Vader to a decision in a unification match, with the winner agreeing to terminate the lineage of one of the titles. Pillman and Austin must also agree to drop the NWA tag team title, something they seem to have done on their own already.

Despite the history that accompanies the NWA belt, it would be best for that championship to be terminated. The federation calls itself WCW and has done so since Ted Turner bought it in 1988. Its top wrestler should be known as the WCW World champion.

Let's end the confusion now—before it only gets worse. □

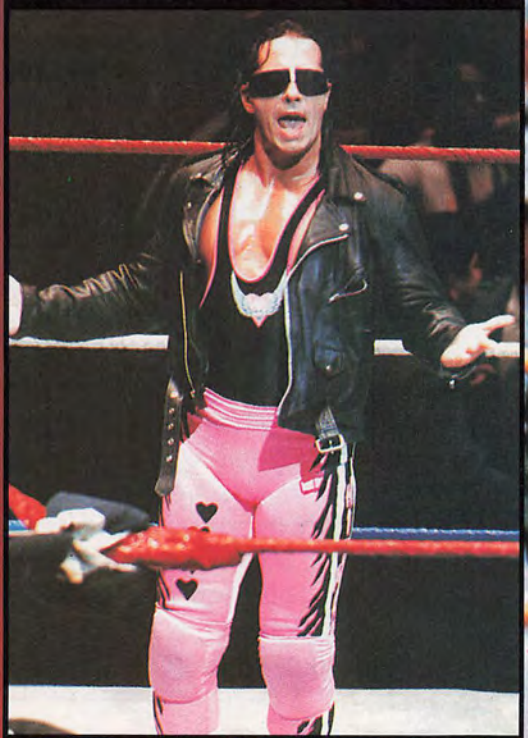
BRET HART VS. HULK HOGAN?!

WHY A "HITMAN"-"HULKSTER" WAR IS SET TO EXPLODE!

When Bret Hart looks back on the circumstances that cost him the WWF World title, he sees several key players. But the "Hitman" is haunted most by Hulk Hogan–despite the "Hulkster's" recent loss to Yokozuna

By Chris Bernucca

Bret Hart (below) wondered where his title matches with the "Hulkster" had gone. When Hulk Hogan (right) won the WWF World title at WrestleMania IX, he effectively turned his back on the "Hitman."



FOR TWO MONTHS, Bret Hart has been competing with an all-new personality. No, he hasn't turned rulebreaker. But since WrestleMania IX, he has been wrestling with the rage and fury of a crazed rulebreaker.

The events of April 4 outraged Hart. He was angry at Yokozuna, who had attacked him in the days leading up to the World title match. He was angry at Mr. Fuji, the Samoan's manager, for throwing salt in his face. He was angry at Hulk Hogan, for stealing the thunder of the title match. He was angry at referee Dave Hebner, for allowing the sport to degenerate into this

BRET HART VS. HULK HOGAN?!

farce. And he was angry at WWF President Jack Tunney, who allowed the double title change to stand, regardless of the many extenuating circumstances.

Hart has channeled that anger into an asset. Since WrestleMania, he has been practically unbeatable. And since that fateful day in Las Vegas, his anger has become more focused. Instead of raging in seven different directions, the bulk of Hart's anger is directed...at Hogan!

On May 24 at a television taping in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Hart could contain his anger no more. In an interview, he declared that he wanted Hulk Hogan, in the ring, for the WWF World title.

A Hart-Hogan battle is not that far-fetched, though Yokozuna has, for the immediate future, at least, removed any title implications of such a match by beating the "Hulkster" for the belt on June 13 in Dayton, Ohio. It's possible that Hart may get a rematch with the Samoan at SummerSlam '93 on August 30 at The Palace in Auburn Hills, Michigan. Hart impressively won the "King Of The Ring" tournament, and the tourney winner may get the next title shot.

Should the "Hitman" and "Hulkster" meet somewhere down the road, Hogan will get a chance to back up his words prior to WrestleMania. In a recent interview with the Rockford (Illinois) *Register Star*, Hogan said of Hart, "I can beat him with my eyes closed. He couldn't even lace my boots up."

That quote hurt Hart. Not only was it ludicrous, but simply not the type of thing that is said about a fellow champion, current or former.

Although Hart was able to handle Yokozuna with relative ease (left), he lost the World title to the 450-pound Samoan...

...which gave the "Hulkster" the opportunity to capture his fifth WWF championship. Unfortunately for Hart, Hogan never defended the belt until the "King Of The Ring" card, where he lost the belt back to the sumo master.

At the time of the quote, Hart didn't feel required to win the tournament to get a shot at Hogan. After all, what had the "Hulkster" done in order to earn his chance at the title? He came to ringside to protest the salt-throwing incident, but as soon as Mr. Fuji challenged him, his protest ended.

"This is what has Bret upset," said Bruce Hart, Bret's brother. "Hogan came to ringside under false pretenses. He had his own agenda. He didn't care one way or the other what happened to Bret, even though he initially appeared as if he did. All he wanted was that belt."

Hogan quickly disposed of Yokozuna, but the 550-pound sumo master was ripe to be picked. He had been outclassed by Hart in

(continued on page 50)

close-up:

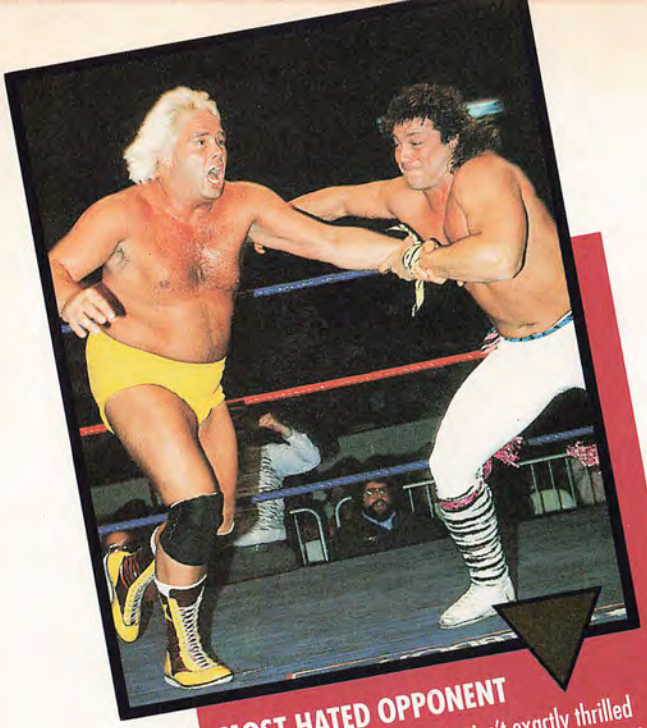
MARTY JANNETTY

THE RECENT WWF Intercontinental champion has always been an outstanding athlete ... At 5'11", 230 pounds, he compensates for his lack of size with outstanding scientific skills and an exciting aerial attack ... Is a native of Columbus, Georgia ... Has one brother and three sisters ... Was a standout at Hardaway High School, where he played linebacker and running back on the football team in the fall and wrestled a Georgia on a wrestling scholarship ... Attended for two years, both times advancing to the NCAA championships at 178 pounds ... Got his big break in 1984, when he was approached by Central States promoter Bob Geigel ... Decided to turn pro after his second year of college ... Was trained by Jerry Oates ... Earned a victory in his first pro match, pinning Roger Kirby in 10 minutes ... Teamed with Tommy Rogers to defeat The Grapplers for the Central States tag team title in 1984 ... He also held the belts two other times, with Bulldog Bob Brown and Shawn Michaels ... During that time, Jannetty and Michaels formed a fateful alliance: Whomever made it to a major territory first would get in touch with the other ... Jannetty's first individual title came on September 22, 1985, when he defeated Mr. Pogo for the Central States belt ... Lost the title before joining the AWA ... In early 1986, shortly after arriving in the AWA, he kept his promise and called Michaels, who immediately joined him in Minneapolis, then the federation's base ... They originally wanted to call themselves The American Express, but settled on The Midnight Rockers because of their late-night partying habits and love for rock 'n' roll ... Though they insisted they weren't copying The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Jannetty once filled in for Rick Morton and teamed with Robert Gibson at Central States ... Jannetty and Michaels were an instant hit, both with the fans and on the mat ... Lost a controversial match to Buddy Rose and Doug Somers at WrestleRock '86 ... The Rockers appeared to have won the AWA World tag team belts on July 13, 1986, when Michaels pinned Somers ... But officials ruled Rose, not Somers, was the legal man in the ring, and the decision was reversed ... The Rose and Somers vs. Rockers feud intensified until January 27, 1987, when Jannetty and Michaels finally won their first team title ... Jannetty covered Somers for the win after a perfect double-dropkick knocked Rose out of the ring ... The Rockers, ragingly successful, issued an open challenge to any team in the world ... The move backfired when they lost the belts in a shocking upset to Boris Zukhov and Soldat Ustinov on May 25 in Lake Tahoe, Nevada ... After the title changed hands several times, Jannetty and Michaels feuded with the "Original" Midnight Express, Dennis Condrey and Randy Rose ... The Rockers regained the belts on December 27, 1987, in Las Vegas, when AWA President Stanley Blackburn overruled the Midnights' controversial win over the Rockers ... That reign ended on March 19, 1988, with a loss to Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond ... Having done all they could in the AWA and solidly established as a valuable commodity, Jannetty and Michaels jumped to the WWF in 1989 and changed their names to The Rockers ... Feuded with The Hart Foundation and The Brainbusters ... Proved the value of skill and speed over power when they won matches against Warlord and Barbarian ... But The Rockers had to take a step back when they lost to the recently formed team of Jim Powers and Paul Roma at SummerSlam '90 ... They appeared on the decline, losing important matches, and Michaels underwent surgery on his right knee ... But just when things looked bleakest, The Rockers defeated The Hart Foundation on October 30, 1990, in a best-of-three falls match for the WWF World tag team title ... However, WWF President Jack Tunney nullified the verdict because the top rope was knocked off its cornerpost during the second fall, causing the ropes to sag ... That was the turning point in The Rockers' WWF tenure ... They defeated The Barbarian and Haku at WrestleMania VII, but couldn't overcome their disappointment with Tunney's decision ... People started doubting their mental toughness, and Jannetty and Michaels started doubting each other. Dissension overcame The Rockers and they began arguing during their matches ... The breakup finally happened on Brutus Beefcake's "Barber Shop" ... Jannetty and Michaels shook hands, apparently having reconciled their differences, when Michaels suddenly blindsided him ... The Rockers were finished ... Michaels' career soared ... Jannetty's career sagged ... First, he was injured when Michaels threw him through a plate-glass window ... Michaels went on to win the Intercontinental title ... Jannetty left the WWF and, it seemed, wrestling ... He returned to the federation in October 1992 ... Jannetty came to ringside during Michaels' match against Jim Brunzell on October 12 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and antagonized his ex-partner, who was shocked to see him ... The following night in Regina, Jannetty defeated Jim Powers, and the comeback was up to speed ... In late October, he stormed the ring and attacked Michaels ... To avoid being hit, Michaels pulled his valet, Sensational Sherri, in front of him and Jannetty broke Sherri's mirror over her head ... Days later, Michaels won the I-C title from Bret Hart ... The former Rockers finally took their feud into the ring ... Sherri began showing up at ringside to support Jannetty ... He was pinned by Michaels at the Royal Rumble in January ... Sherri interfered and accidentally hit Jannetty with her shoe ... Again, he dropped out of the picture ... On May 17 at *WWF Monday Night Raw* in New York, Michaels issued an open challenge and put his I-C title on the line ... Jannetty, wearing a hooded sweatshirt, answered the call ... Michaels, shocked when he realized it was Jannetty, was goaded into accepting the challenge and paid the price ... Curt Hennig came to ringside and hit Michaels in the face with a towel ... Jannetty rolled him up for the pin ... The Rockers had come full circle ... Once rising singles stars, then aspiring tag team partners, then partners, and finally enemies, Michaels and Jannetty had traded the I-C title ... For the first time in a long time, Jannetty had the upper hand ... It lasted less than three weeks, when Michaels regained the belt on June 6 in Albany, New York ... This war of former partners seems a long way from being settled. □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

MARTY JANNETTY

RAMPAGING ROCKER

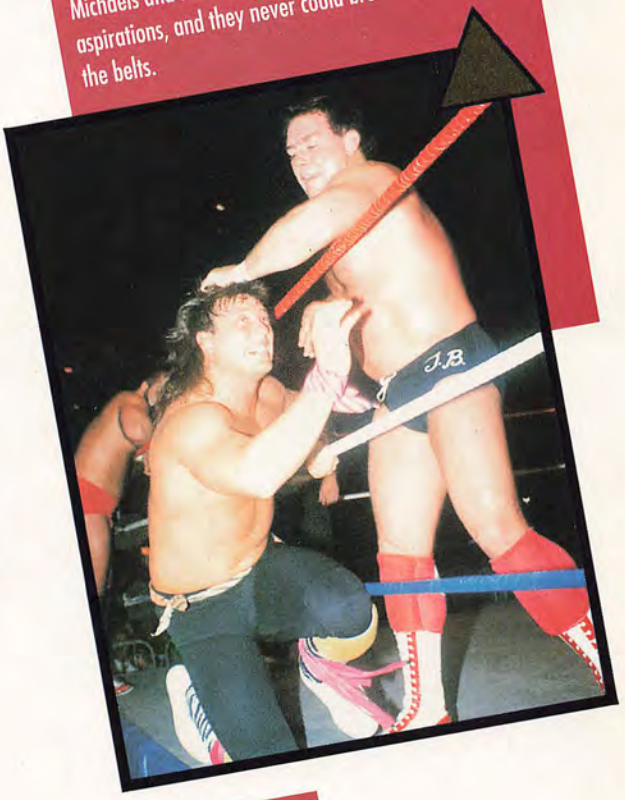


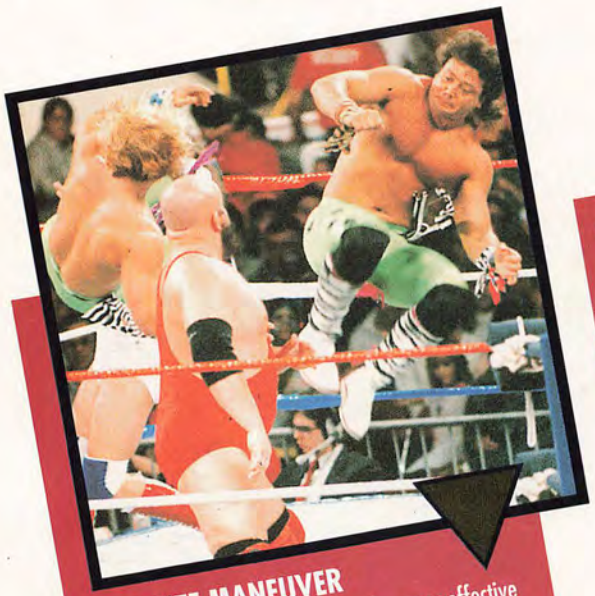
MOST HATED OPPONENT

Buddy Rose. While Jannetty isn't exactly thrilled with Michaels, he holds a special dislike for Rose. The Rockers feuded with Rose and Doug Somers in the AWA, and Jannetty will never forget their heated encounters. He was especially irritated that Rose never gave The Rockers the respect they deserved.

TOUGHEST OPPONENT

Tully Blanchard. Jannetty long admired Blanchard from afar, and got a chance to face him firsthand when The Rockers feuded with Blanchard and Arn Anderson. The Brainbusters stood in the way of Michaels and Jannetty's WWF World tag team title aspirations, and they never could break through for the belts.



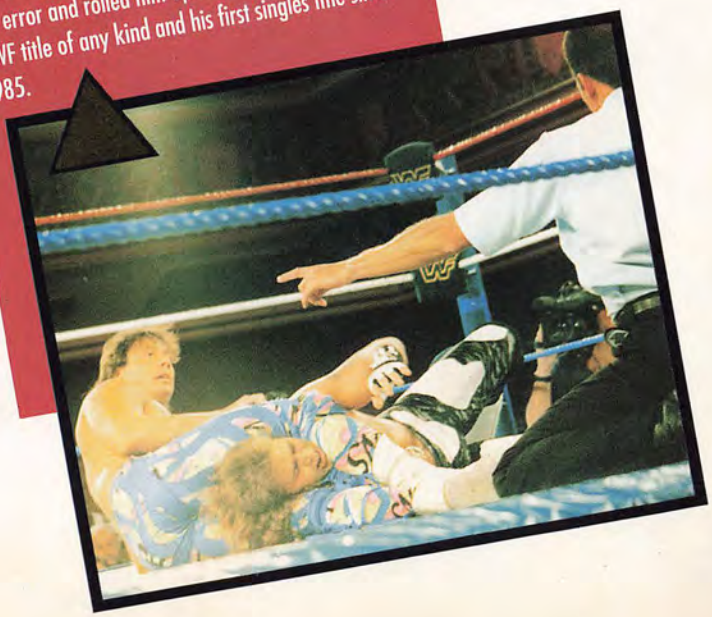


FAVORITE MANEUVER

Flying dropkick. Although it was far more effective while he teamed with Michaels, Jannetty's dropkick continues to rank among the sport's best. The key ingredient is height, and he's a pro at elevating from a standing start. At the point of greatest height, Jannetty pushes out, forcing his opponent backward with stunning impact.

GREATEST MATCH

May 17, 1993, vs. Shawn Michaels. Revenge was well over a year in coming for Jannetty, and he got it over his former tag team partner. Michaels' ego was his downfall, as Jannetty took advantage of a critical error and rolled him up for the pin. It was his first WWF title of any kind and his first singles title since 1985.



Arn Anderson On The Run?

ERIK WATTS TAKING THE FORCE OUT OF "The ENFORCER"

Although he has lost to Arn Anderson, Erik Watts keeps coming back for more. But Anderson doesn't want to give it to him. Does "The Enforcer" have nothing left to prove, or does he fear the improving rookie?

By Chris Bernucca

ARN ANDERSON HAS always been comfortable within the confines of the squared circle. Known as "The Enforcer," he has won singles and tag team titles while dispensing his own brand of punishment throughout his 11-year career.

Recently, though, he may have found somewhere more comfortable than a wrestling ring. He may frequently be found seated at the bar of the "A Flair For The Gold" set, enjoying a beverage and the company of Ric Flair, his longtime friend and partner in The Four Horsemen.

"It's good to be back together with Ric," Anderson said after a taping of the segment. "We go back a long way, and it's reassuring to know that someone with the skill and experience of Ric Flair is going to be on your side, no matter what happens."

Anderson's truly happy about the reuniting of the Horsemen and his affiliation with Flair. When the "Nature Boy" returned to WCW in February, it was Anderson who began discussing recreating the stable, which wreaked havoc on WCW from 1986 until its demise in 1990.

But it may be more than camaraderie that drove Anderson toward Flair. "The Enforcer" is coming off a knee injury, and may have been looking for the protection only a team can provide. He would never admit it, but the driving force behind his alliance with the Horsemen may be...

Erik Watts.

Yes, Erik Watts. You remember him, don't you? A rookie without much skill or charisma. The boss' son who, some say, received preferential treatment during his father's brief tenure as WCW executive vice president.

Yes, *that* Erik Watts.

Most observers felt Watts wouldn't survive once father Bill resigned amidst an executive purge at WCW. Many believed he'd been riding his father's coattails, and would soon be exposed as nothing more than an inexperienced mid-card competitor.

But the father's absence has not slowed the son's progress. If anything, Watts has improved as a wrestler since his dad's departure, and is working hard to make his own name in the federation.

"When I first came into WCW, it might have been too much too soon," said Watts, who made his pro debut in August 1992. "Now, it's different. I'm treated like any other wrestler. I just try to take my matches one at a time. If I win, fine. If I lose, then I hope to learn something from losing."

He lost twice to Anderson in May, falling victim to a DDT in both matches. The youngster learned he can't rely on just one move every time he steps into the ring.

"You can't depend on just one

Erik Watts tries to take Arn Anderson down with a sunset flip. Watts, who debuted in August 1992, has worked hard to expand his repertoire.

Watts goes for the stepover toehold, but Anderson is able to counter the hold. Has the power of the STF made "The Enforcer" afraid of this second-generation grappler?

finishing maneuver," said Watts. "The veterans know how to counter just about every move, so it's important to have more than one. That way, you can keep them off-guard."

He has nearly perfected one finishing maneuver: the STF, or stepover toehold facelock. The maneuver was taught to him over several private (and a few public) training sessions by Masa Chono, who learned the move from the legendary Lou Thesz.

Watts has used the move on Anderson, but not in the ring. Earlier this year, Anderson had set about to destroy Watts when the two met in a gas station in Charlotte, North Carolina. "The Enforcer" attacked the rookie, didn't take long for him to realize that he was grappling with a much-improved competitor. After defeating Watts, he shook the rookie's hand, a clear sign of respect.

Anderson agreed to a rematch and defeated Watts in the same fashion. He refused to employ the rulebreaking tactics that have made him one of the sport's most dangerous men. Once more, he shook his rival's hand.

Since the two victories, Anderson has declined to grant Watts another rematch. Publicly, he claims he has nothing more to prove. Privately, though, the veteran may fear retribution from one of WCW's most promising youngsters.

Arn Anderson snuffed out the future of another young wrestler."

Watts didn't understand Anderson's refusal to wrestle. He was looking forward to several more meetings, confident he'd eventually turn the tide and conquer one of the sport's biggest names.

"He says he might hurt me?" asked an incredulous Watts. "Arn Anderson should know better than any wrestler in WCW that getting hurt is part of this sport. I'm willing to get hurt. Why isn't he? If you ask me, that's a pretty lame excuse. He sounds like he's ducking me."

Even if he is ducking Watts, "The Enforcer" will never admit to it. Right now, he is content to

Classic Anderson style: Pick a limb and concentrate your attack until your opponent can't continue. To his credit, Watts realizes that pain is just another part of the mat sport.

Anderson may be willing to take his match with Watts outside the ring, but he's not quite as willing to wrestle Watts again as one might think.

but fell victim to the STF, severely injuring his knee.

While Anderson was sidelined, Watts continued to wrestle, gaining valuable experience. When "The Enforcer" stepped into the ring to settle the score, it

"I gave him a match, then I gave him a rematch," Anderson said. "I beat him both times. What else do I have to do? If I wrestle him again, I may hurt him and end his career. Then you guys will want to know why

sit at the bar stool alongside his buddy Ric Flair. The Four Horsemen have reunited, and he's ecstatic about that.

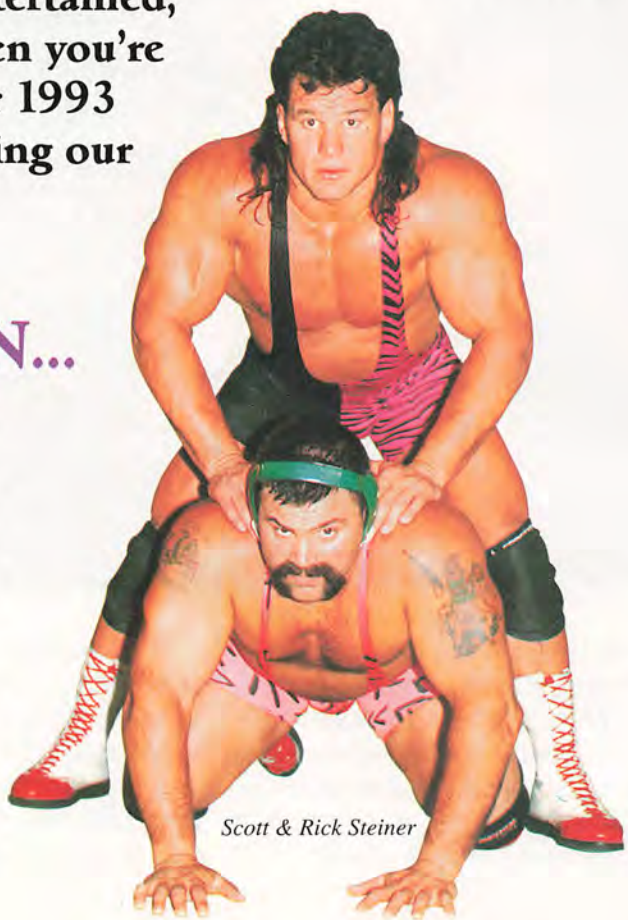
But even Anderson must admit you can't do much enforcing from a bar stool. □

Midyear WWF Report

WE JUST COULDN'T wait! Usually, the editors of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED review the previous year in our March issue. But so much has happened in this sport during the first half of 1993, we've decided to get a head-start on things and dedicate a pair of special sections to the mat world's magnificent six months!

On the following pages, we've assembled an offbeat look at the ordinary, the extraordinary, the unusual, and the not-so-unusual happenings in the WWF. It was a time that saw the World and Intercontinental titles change hands, Hulk Hogan return to the ring, and Lex Luger begin his assault on the WWF World title. Some wrestlers had a great first half-year; can they build on their momentum in the second half? Others had a disappointing first six months; can they rebound to salvage 1993?

Read on! We're sure you'll be entertained, amused, and informed. Then, when you're done, get ready for our November 1993 edition, in which we'll be presenting our midyear report on WCW!

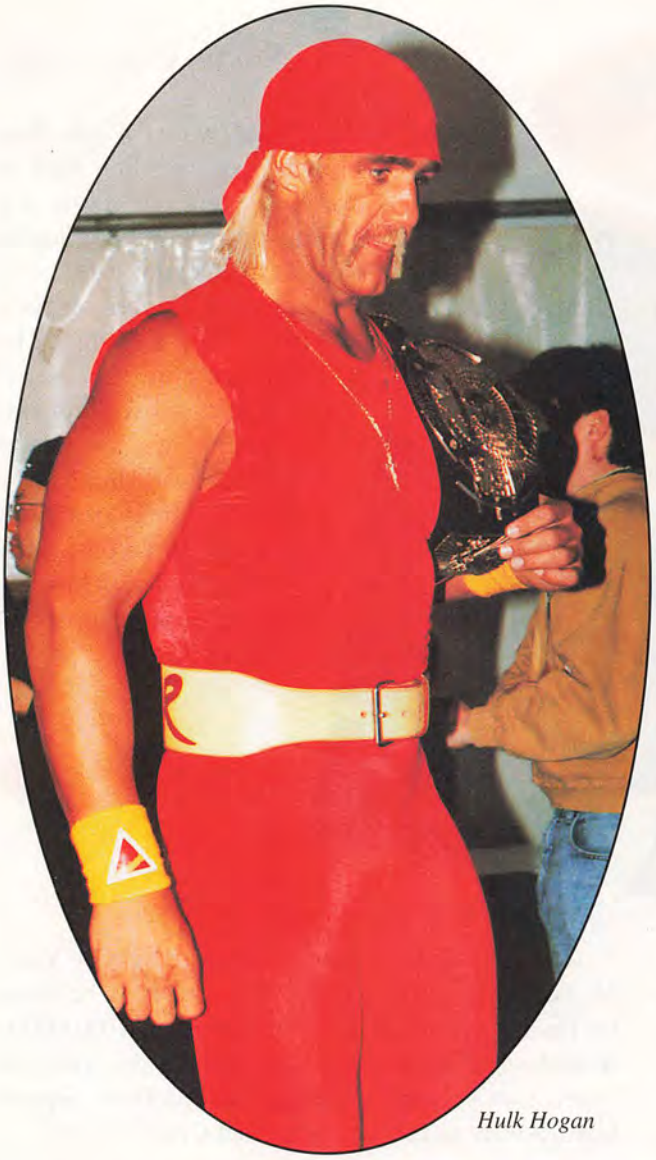


Scott & Rick Steiner

THE GRADES ARE IN...

They get an "A": **Marty Jannetty** took his time and won the Intercontinental title from former rival Shawn Michaels in stunning fashion. While he didn't keep it very long, the comeback was nonetheless remarkable ... **Rick & Scott Steiner** have dominated tag team competition. It took them a long time, but perseverance paid off: In June, they captured the World tag team title from Money Inc. ... **Bret Hart** never should have lost the World title, but kept up his heavy schedule even after the loss. He was magnificent in winning the "King Of The Ring" tournament.

They get a "B": **Hulk**



Hulk Hogan

Hogan won the WWF World title in controversial fashion, and lost it that way, too. He rarely appeared in the ring, and it showed in his first defense ... **Yokozuna** used his bulk for a two-minute World title reign in April, and for regaining the belt in June. Credit **Mr. Fuji** for improving the Samoan's stamina in the rematch with Hogan ... **Shawn Michaels** achieved a career high by winning the I-C title, though he lost it to Jannetty for just under three weeks ... **Curt Hennig** excelled in his feud against Michaels, as well as in a classic "King Of The Ring" semifinal loss to Hart.

They get a "C": **Lex Luger** stormed the federation as the "Narcissist," but soon proved his cowardliness, aside from a one-shot upset of Hart ... **Tatanka** got into too many feuds and lost most of them, but continued battling ... **Crush** established himself as a viable contender for a major title ... **Money Inc.** had the World tag team belts for most of the half-year, but that means little, as **Ted DiBiase** and **Irwin R. Schyster** constantly went for walks.

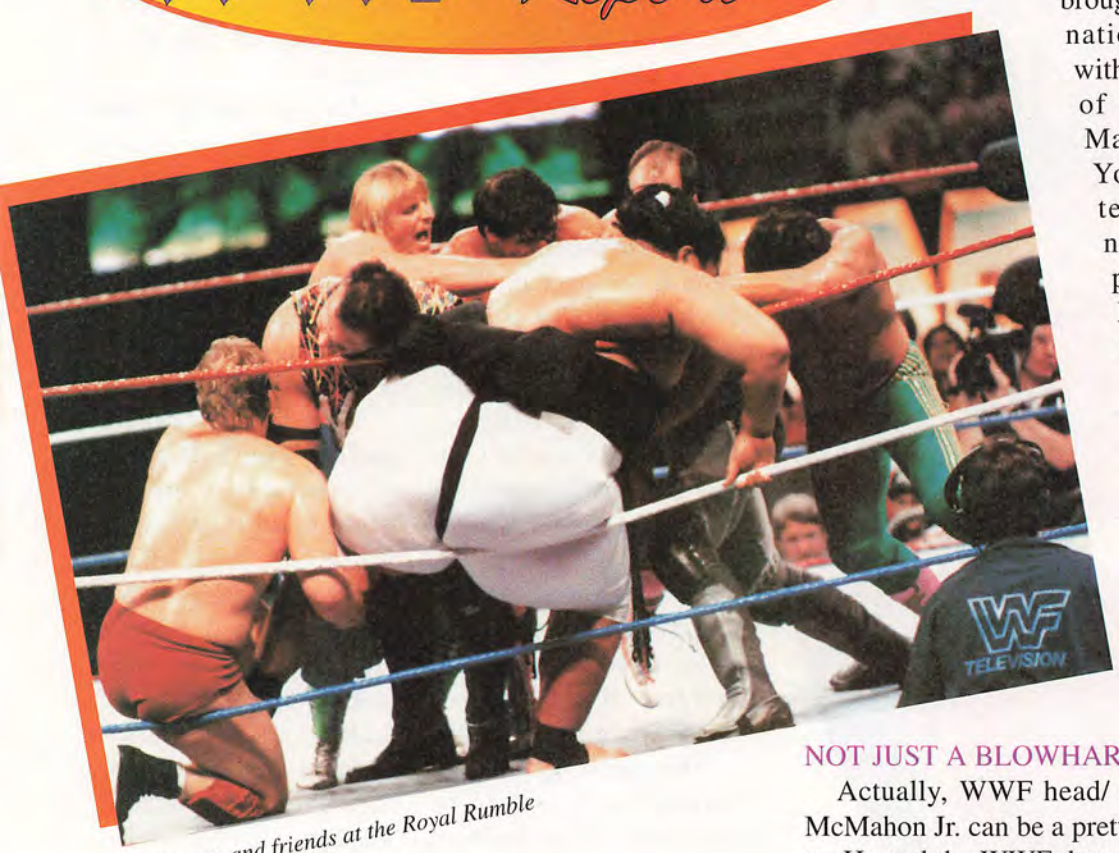
They get a "D": **Razor Ramon** continued to be consistently inconsistent ... **Brutus Beefcake** made a stunning return to the ring, but did little else ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** still has a lot to prove, though he nearly shocked Hart in the "King Of The Ring" finals.

They get an "F": **Bob Backlund's** campaign needs a breath of fresh air ... **The Undertaker** is burying himself ... **Doink I** or **Doink II**? Fail them both ... **Kamala** should lose some weight and return to the jungle.

They get an "incomplete": **The Kid** posted an inspirational upset of Ramon, but now must prove he's more than a one-hit wonder ... **Mr. Hughes** and **Giant Gonzales** are newcomers to **Harvey Wippleman's** stable ... **Hacksaw Duggan** must show more than patriotism ... **Terry Taylor** is part-time wrestler, part-time broadcaster.

The Undertaker & Paul Bearer

WWF Midyear Report



Yokozuna and friends at the Royal Rumble

WE'LL TAKE OURS WELL-DONE ...AND IT WAS!

The WWF's *Monday Night Raw* brought live wrestling back to national network cable TV with exciting Monday nights of action from the cozy Manhattan Center on New York's West Side. The telecasts on the USA network were action-packed, as we saw Brutus Beefcake and Hulk Hogan return, Marty Jannetty win the Intercontinental title, and The Kid score a memorable upset of Razor Ramon.

NOT JUST A BLOWHARD!

Actually, WWF head/ millionaire/egotist Vince McMahon Jr. can be a pretty nice guy when he wants to. He and the WWF donated more than $100,000 to Somalian relief efforts, and all receipts from the federation's January 29 card at Madison Square Garden went to the American Red Cross. Bravo!

A LIST OF THE THREE BEST PAY-PER-VIEW CARDS SO FAR IN 1993...

3. WrestleMania IX
2. King of the Ring
1. Royal Rumble

...AND ANOTHER SUCH LIST OF THE BEST COMEBACKS SO FAR IN '93

4. Lex Luger
3. Marty Jannetty (the second time)
2. Brutus Beefcake
1. Hulk Hogan

HAVE A SEAT. NO, NOT HERE

Yokozuna, the 550-pound former sumo star, made a tremendous impact on the WWF. How? By sitting on his opponents! There proved to be little defense for his girth, and the Samoan gave a hint of his future dominance with a victory at The Royal Rumble.

Brutus Beefcake vs. Ted DiBiase

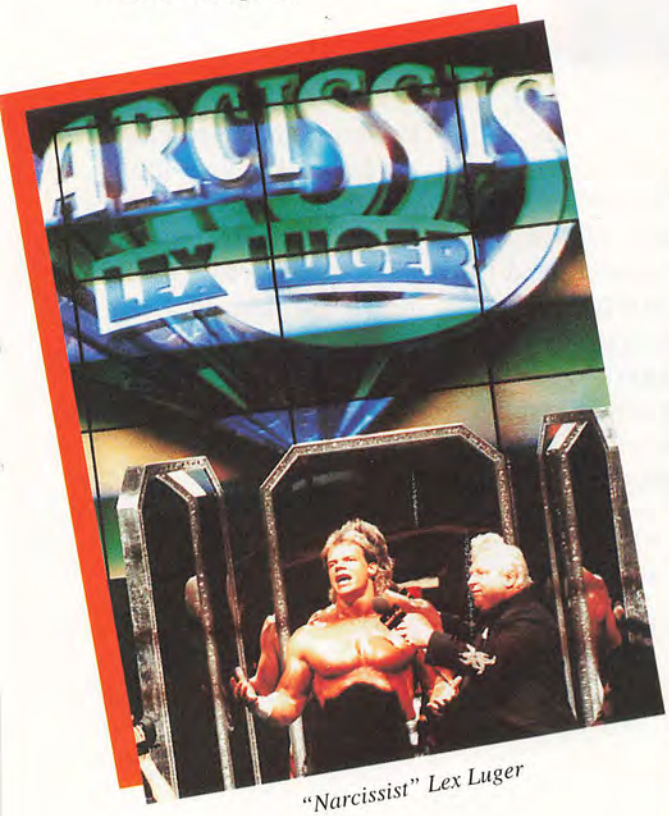
Sensational Sherri

IN NEED OF A MAN...ANY MAN

After her relationship with Shawn Michaels ended, Sensational Sherri went looking for a replacement. First she tried Marty Jannetty. No go. Then she tried Tatanka. He wasn't buying. She tried a reunion with Randy Savage. He didn't want to reunite. Finally, Sherri burned off her excess energy by feuding with Luna Vachon (who, by the way, *also* needs a man).

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL

After trying to start a new career in the World Bodybuilding Federation, Lex Luger returned to do what he does best at the Royal Rumble. But Luger's egotistical display, complete with full-sized mirror, disgusted those who expected more from the former WCW World champion.



"Narcissist" Lex Luger

HE'S EVERYWHERE, HE'S EVERYWHERE!

Jerry Lawler did double-duty as WWF commentator and USWA champion (and former champion). On the one hand, he never worried about sparing feelings on WWF broadcasts, when he criticized several of its fan favorites and pummeled Bret Hart after he'd won the "King Of The Ring" tournament. But the USWA, thanks to Lawler, allowed WWF stars to compete on its cards. "The King" paid for this policy when he lost the USWA title to Papa Shango.

YOU CAN ALWAYS DEPEND ON MOM AND DAD

Stu and Helen Hart watched nervously at ringside as Bret Hart successfully defended his World title against Razor Ramon at the Royal Rumble. "I'm proud of my boy," said Stu, whose feelings were seconded by his wife.

Papa Shango vs. Jerry Lawler

WWF Midyear Report

AU REVOIR, ANDRE

Andre the Giant, who wrestled his greatest matches in the WWF but held the World title for less than a minute on February 5, 1988, died of a heart attack on January 27 in France while attending the funeral of his father. Although Andre was a rulebreaker late in his career, the sport will miss this talented, friendly big man who always seemed to have time for a smile.

Andre the Giant

Dino Bravo

Doink...or Doink II?

KRUSTY'S EVIL TWIN(S)?

He's no Bozo. Doink the Clown, who at first seemed to be a harmless WWF sideshow character, terrorized children and his opponents when he turned out to be the most sadistic clown of all. Shame on the WWF for allowing him this forum of evil.

GOODBYE, DINO

Dino Bravo's life came to a more violent end than Andre's: He was murdered gangland-style on March 11 while sitting in his Laval, Quebec, home. Bravo also had his finest days in the WWF, where he was known as the "World's Strongest Man."

Kamala

NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL

Kamala, the Ugandan Giant, took revenge on Kim Chee and Harvey Wippleman, and gained the fans' affections when he proved to be, well, rather *lovable*. Nonetheless, his career remained as stalled as a fan favorite as it had been as a rulebreaker.

JUST HANGING OUT, ENJOYING MY DAY OFF, WHEN...

Hulk Hogan turned on his television, only to see his pal Brutus Beefcake getting the stuffings kicked out of him by Ted DiBiase and Irwin R. Schyster. Proving that watching TV isn't a spectator sport, the "Hulkster" sprung to action, returned to the WWF, and formed the Megamaniacs. Presto, chango! The Steiners were out of the WrestleMania IX World tag team title match against Money Inc., and The Megamaniacs were in. Don't touch that dial!

AND THAT'S SAYING SOMETHING!

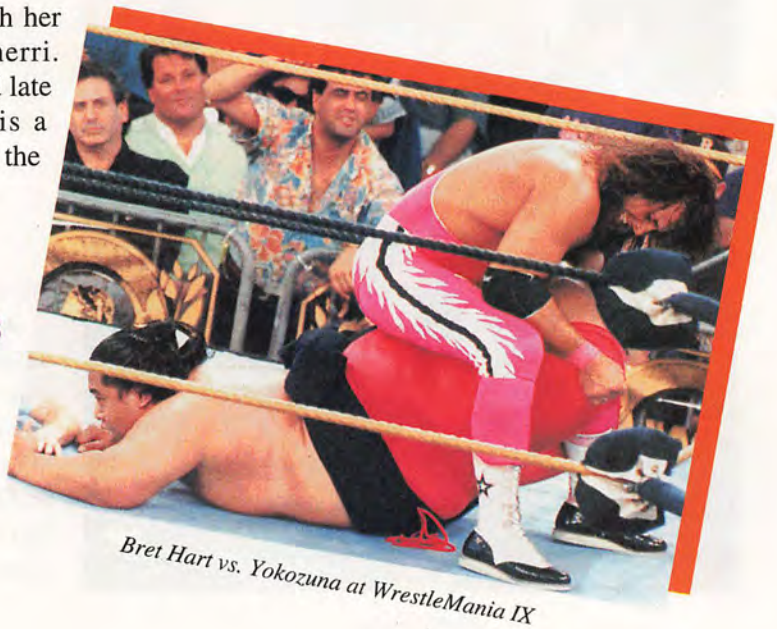
WWF President Jack Tunney made perhaps his worst decision ever when he allowed Hogan's WrestleMania IX title victory over Yokozuna to stand, even though there wasn't a valid contract. Maybe this will teach Mr. Fuji to keep his mouth shut, but Tunney clearly had his eyes on the WWF bank account when he made this decision.

JUST CARRYING ON A FAMILY TRADITION

Luna Vachon took delirium to a new level with her screaming fits and attacks on Sensational Sherri. Luna—whose father Mad Dog, uncle Butcher, and late aunt Vivian were notorious rulebreakers—is a minimalist when it comes to dress, and crazy to the max. Rhymes with witch...

RATING THE WRESTLEMANIA IX MATCHES

10. Tito Santana vs. Papa Shango
9. Razor Ramon vs. Bob Backlund
8. Crush vs. Doink the Clown
7. Hulk Hogan vs. Yokozuna
6. The Undertaker vs. Giant Gonzales
5. Lex Luger vs. Curt Hennig
4. The Steiners vs. The Headshrinkers
3. Money Inc. vs. The Megamaniacs
2. Bret Hart vs. Yokozuna
1. Shawn Michaels vs. Tatanka



Bret Hart vs. Yokozuna at WrestleMania IX

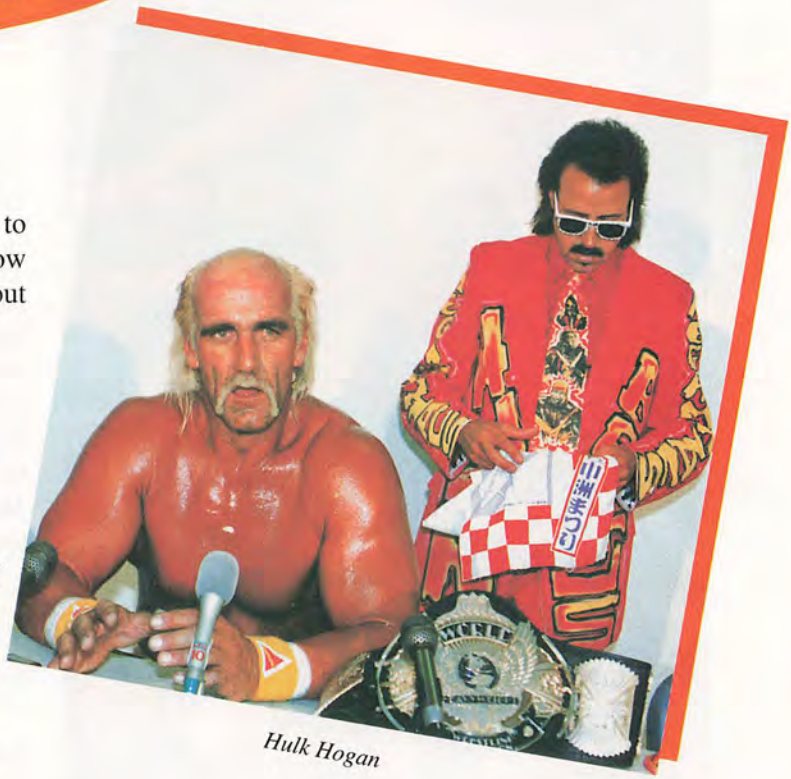
WWF Midyear Report

WHAT'S NEXT: THE RABID RABBI? THE PREPOSTEROUS PRIEST?

The Mad Monk, a bald, barefoot wrestler, failed to impress following his WWF arrival. Ignoring his vow of poverty, the Monk took a vow to hurt people, but ended up boring them instead.

HOW SOON THEY FORGET

Bret Hart's number-one seeding for the "King Of The Ring" tournament was greeted with outrage. Did people forget that he was once WWF World champion, losing only because of Mr. Fuji's salt-throwing interference? Hart made them remember on June 13, wrestling a total of more than 47 minutes to win the tourney.



Hulk Hogan

Marty Jannetty

MR. NANNY OR MR. UNGRATEFUL?

Hulk Hogan, whose film *Mr. Nanny* appeared in theaters this summer, didn't make too many friends when he called the WWF World title a "toy" after a match against The Great Muta in Japan. Ignoring the 30-day rule, the "Hulkster" waited 70 days before defending his so-called toy—and losing it to Yokozuna.

QUICK MOUTH, SLOW TRIGGER

Apparently, Shawn Michaels didn't mean business when he put his I-C title on the line at *Monday Night Raw*. Marty Jannetty, wearing a hooded sweatshirt, answered the challenge, which Michaels accepted only after massive cajoling from Vince McMahon, Jannetty, and the fans in attendance. Before long, Michaels was a former champion, at least for 20 days. Congratulations, Marty.

Yokozuna

Mr. Hughes

OUR MID-TERM LIST OF THE FIVE WORST-DRESSED MEN IN THE WWF...

5. Yokozuna
4. Bob Backlund
3. Doink
2. Randy Savage
1. Vince McMahon

...AND THE THREE BEST-DRESSED MEN IN THE WWF

3. Lex Luger
2. Curt Hennig
1. Mr. Hughes

WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

Bret Hart

TAG TEAM OF THE HALF-YEAR

Rick and Scott Steiner

MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

Yokozuna

MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

Hulk Hogan

MANAGER OF THE HALF-YEAR

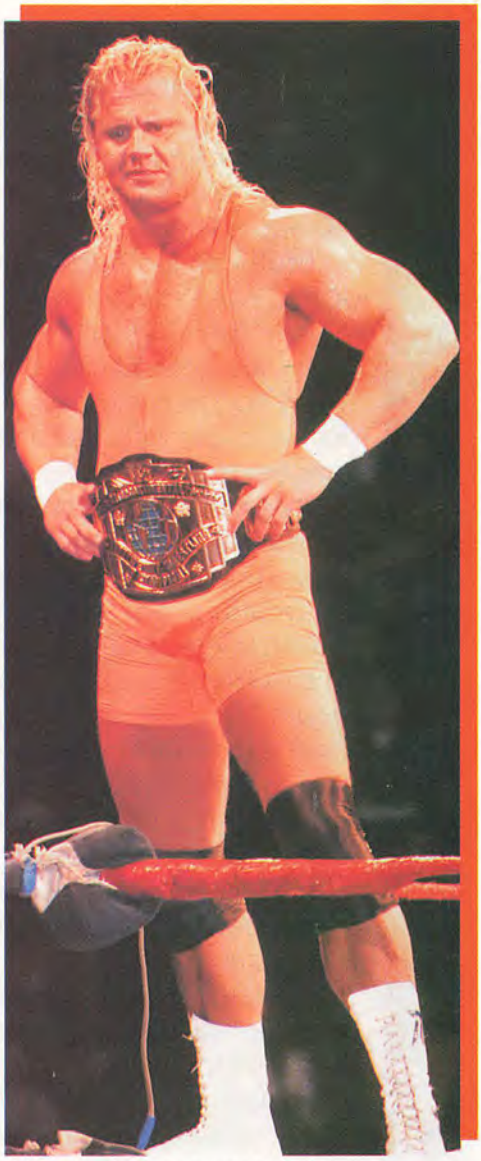
Harvey Wippleman

INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

The 1-2-3 Kid

MATCH OF THE HALF-YEAR

Bret Hart pins Curt Hennig at 18:56, "King Of The Ring" semifinals



"Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig

AND, FINALLY, FIVE PREDICTIONS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 1993

1. Bret Hart will win the World title
2. Curt Hennig will win the I-C title
3. Money Inc. will break up
4. Hulk Hogan will re-retire
5. The World title will be defended in the USWA

BRET HART VS. HULK HOGAN?!

(continued from page 34)

their title match and was seconds away from submitting when Fuji tossed the salt. Yokozuna was tired and not nearly 100 percent fit—a mistake he avoided in the rematch 10 weeks later.

"Bret was too overwhelmed by losing the title to react," said a WWF fan favorite who is close to Hart. "When he got back to the locker room, he was mad at Fuji and Hebner. But when Hogan came back to the locker room with the belt, he was beyond words."

Hogan's actions cost Hart an immediate rematch with Yokozuna, something all ex-champions are entitled to. Nevertheless, Hart was willing to give Hogan the benefit of the doubt. The "Hulkster" was a five-time champion and knew a thing or two about defending the belt. You don't remain on top by ducking challenges, and in the past 10 years, no champ had faced a challenge better than Hogan.

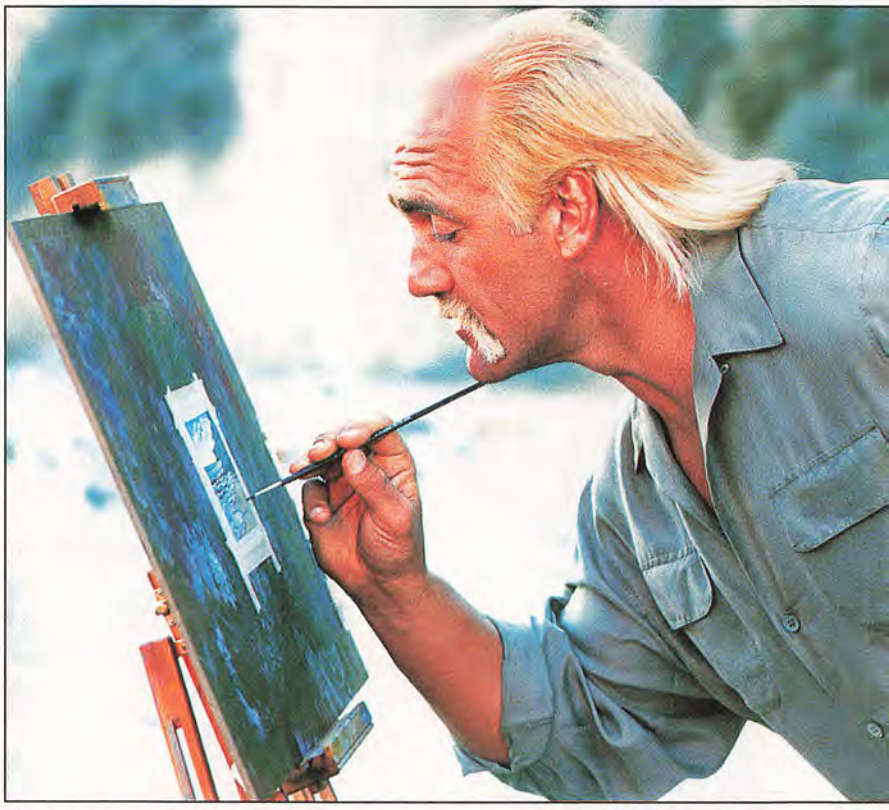
So Hart waited. And waited. And waited. While the "Hitman" was mostly having his way with Lex Luger (save for an isolated May upset in Hershey, Pennsylvania), Hogan was sitting on a beach in Florida, laughing in the face of the 30-day title defense rule. Hart, who had spent his six-month reign emulating the 1980s Hogan who took on all comers, noticed the 1990s "Hulkster" showed no interest in defending the title several times a week.

In fact, Hogan didn't even defend the title monthly; it was 70 days between winning at WrestleMania and his first, ill-fated title defense. This further enraged Hart, who now noticed the preferential treatment Hogan got that he never received, even while wearing the WWF's premier prize.

"It's just wrong," said Stu Hart, Bret's father. "There's a double standard in the WWF. There's a set of rules for Hulk Hogan and a different set of rules for everyone else. In a situation like that, you know there is going to be resentment and hatred."

Yes, Hart has hatred for Yokozuna, who now owns the belt. But his focus remains on just one man. From the statement to the grandstanding to the title victory to the laziness, Bret Hart sees plenty to despise in Hulk Hogan.

Despite his past achievements, the "Hulkster" now represents everything Hart is not. The "Hitman" worked hard to cultivate his image as a tireless grappler who emphasizes scientific skills and accepts the challenge of every legitimate contender. In Hart's eyes, Hogan is a reluctant wrestler who reaps the benefits of his marquee name and avoids confrontation.



Did Hulk Hogan spend his 70-day title reign painting? Nobody knows for sure, but one thing for sure is that he didn't spend it defending his belt.

Hart knows he lost some of his faithful when he relinquished the title. He also knows challenging Hogan won't endear him to the public. During his six-month title reign, Hart realized he had a chance to be the next generation's Hulk Hogan. In order to accomplish that, though, he must get rid of this generation's "Hulkster"—whether or not Hogan is champion. □

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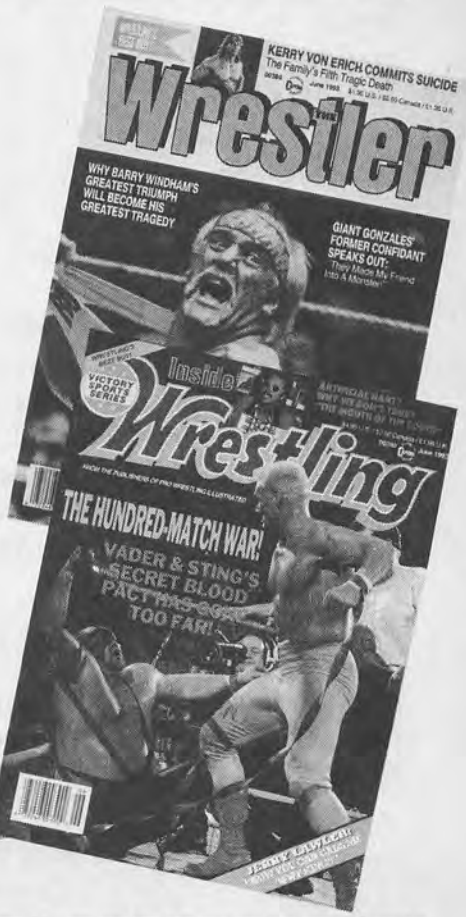
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The Family's Fifth Tragic Death
The Wrestler
WHY BARRY WINDHAM'S GREATEST TRIUMPH WILL BECOME HIS GREATEST TRAGEDY
GIANT GONZALES' FORMER CONFIDANT SPEAKS OUT:
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PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 27)

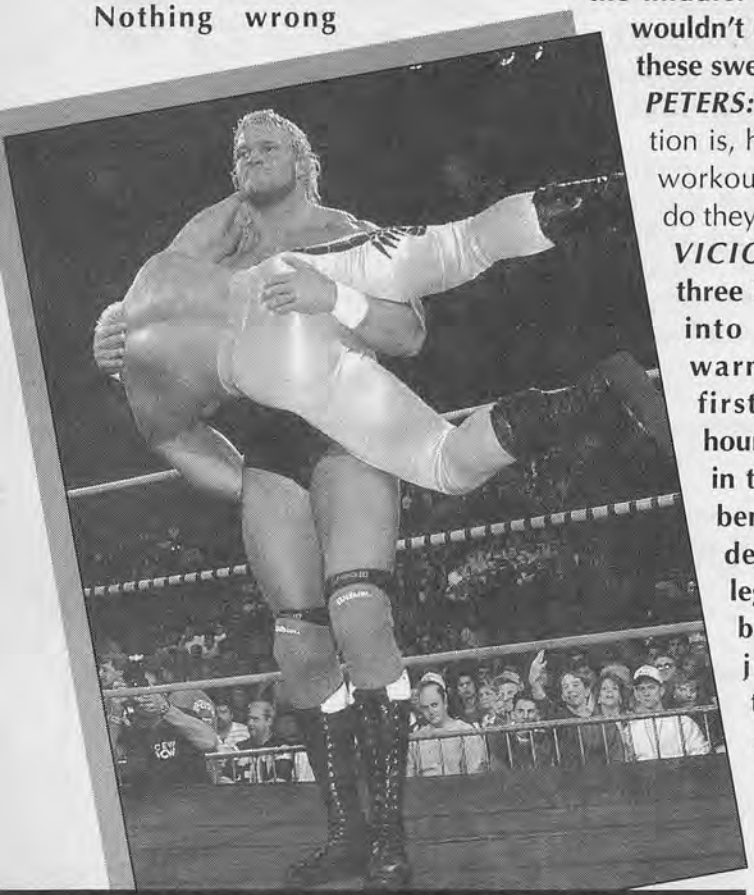
PETERS: Nice wording, Dave.

ROSENBAUM: No, I'm just saying you're more patient and you seem to be thinking before you act. For instance, I don't think you would've joined The Four Horsemen if you really gave it some deep thought.

VICIOUS: **I gave it some deep thought. It was the right move at the time, but Flair was afraid of me and he never admitted it publicly. I would've won the belt several times, but Flair always got in the way. That was the problem.**

PATERNO: Do you regret joining the Horsemen?

VICIOUS: **I don't regret anything. It was an experience. Nothing wrong with that.**



Vicious feuded with Sting in late-1990, culminating in a remarkable title match at Halloween Havoc. Sting and Davey Boy Smith were Vicious and Vader's first targets upon uniting.

Vicious is as—well, as vicious as ever. Here, he holds an opponent by the hair as Harley Race delivers a beating of his own and Parker looks on.

PETERS: You just got done with your workout...

VICIOUS: **I'm not done. I'm in the middle. If I was done, I wouldn't be sitting here in these sweaty shorts.**

PETERS: Well, my question is, how long do your workouts last and what do they consist of?

VICIOUS: **They last three hours, broken up into one hour of warming up in the first half and two hours of heavy lifting in the second half. I bench-press, squat, deadlift, do curls, leg exercises, more bench-presses, jump rope, and there are a few of the Colonel's secret exercises.**

PETERS: Secret exercises? What are they?

VICIOUS: **I can't say. They're secrets.**

ROSENBAUM: Of course, Craig. They're secrets. Are your workouts more intense than they used to be?

VICIOUS: **Not more intense, just more focused, just like the rest of my life. I'm not into wasting time anymore. I'm not into having fun. I'm into winning and doing everything necessary to make sure I win.**

PATERNO: Let's talk some more about the Horsemen. What do you think about their reunion?

VICIOUS: **I think Paul Roma's a bad substitute for Sid Vicious.**

PATERNO: Is that all?

VICIOUS: **I think Flair, Ole, and Arn are old and past their prime. I think Flair will use Roma every way he can. I think that since Tully Blanchard, the toughest man in the whole group, isn't around anymore, it makes them a weaker team. I think The Four Horsemen should've stayed retired the first time, instead of running the risk of having someone like me retire them the sec-**

Vicious' physique is ample testament to his incredible workout regimen. He says that his workouts now are more focused and productive than ever. He also seems more mature.

ond. I could do it.

ROSENBAUM: Would you like to get your hands on Flair?

VICIOUS: **It's not a priority, but it would be nice. It would give me great pleasure to give him a one-way ticket out of wrestling. His "Flair For The Gold" segment? Good idea. He has a career in broadcasting and he should stick with it.**

PATERNO: How about if Flair wins the World title?

VICIOUS: **How about it? It will never happen. Vader's the man.**

PETERS: How about Parker? A lot of people, myself included, thought you'd never have another manager after your bad experiences with the Horsemen and Harvey Wippleman. Why'd you go along with Parker?

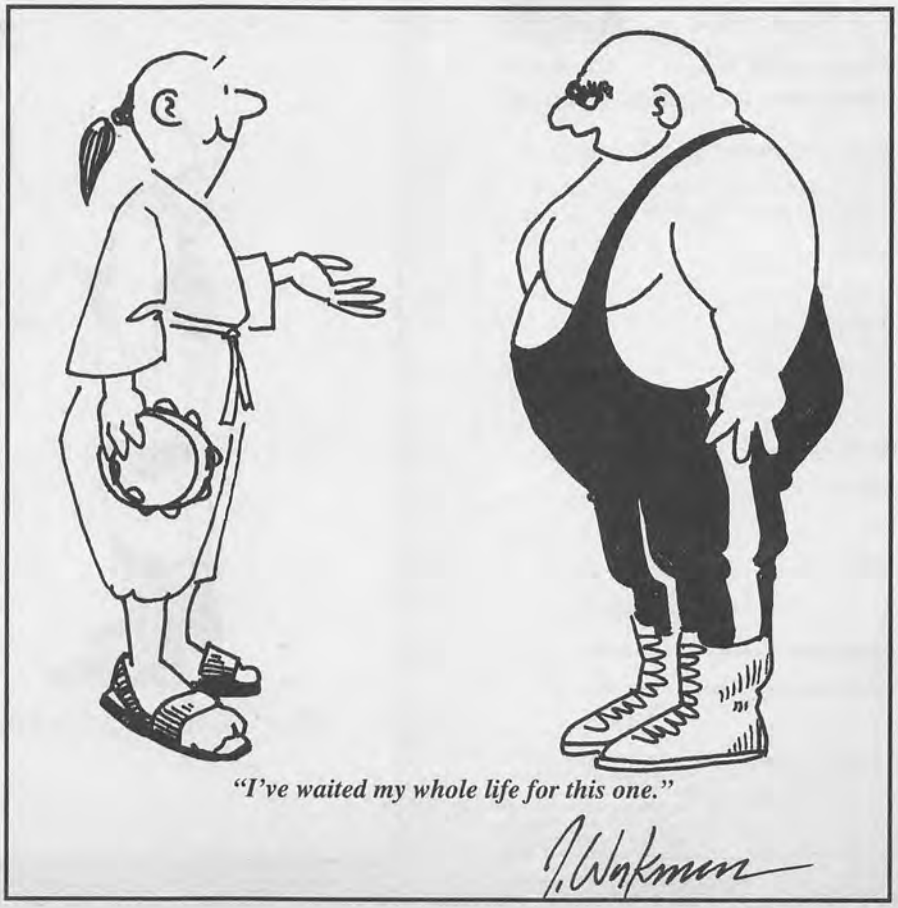
VICIOUS: **Because he's a smart man and he knows the sport. He made me a good offer, I looked it over, and I thought it was a good idea. Besides, there's enough for a wrestler to worry about in this sport without worrying about the little details. If you ask me, every wrestler should have a manager. I'm surprised they all don't. Look at boxers. They all have managers and trainers. Wrestling's too tough to go it alone.**

PATERNO: Can you trust Parker?

VICIOUS: **Can anyone trust anyone? There are always risks, and maybe I'm taking one, but it looks to me like the Colonel is out for my best interests, because they're his best interests, too. It's like any other sport. If I win, we'll both be happy. If I lose, there'll be some changes.**

PETERS: It sounds as if you're turning into a businessman.

VICIOUS: **I am a businessman. Sports are business. And like all successful businessmen, I'm dead serious about what I'm doing. Let everyone else judge the risks of that.** □



"I've waited my whole life for this one."

J. Wakeman

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RINGSIDE

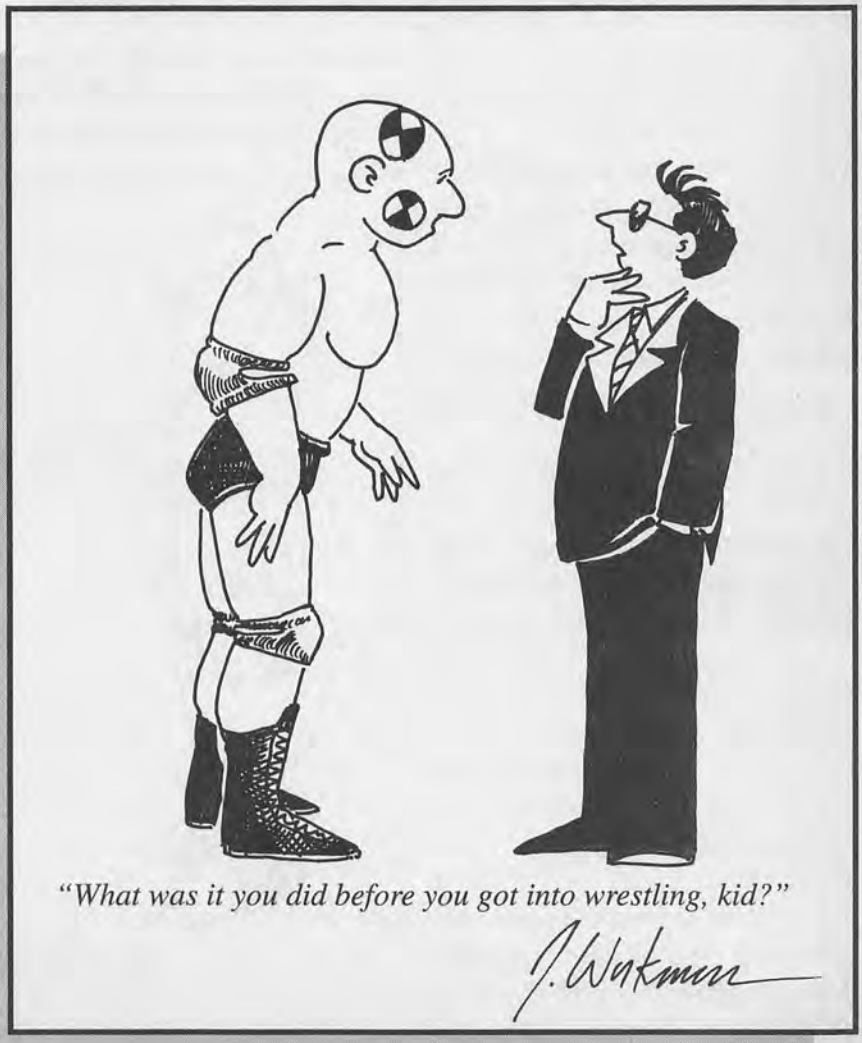
(Continued from page 11)

ous occasions, so you can believe he was and will continue to be out for blood against The Blonds.

"You're seeing a new Ric Flair," the "Nature Boy" said. "I'm no longer restricting myself to singles competition. If I get the opportunity to go after the tag team title, believe me, I'll do it. This is personal. The Four Horsemen are back, and The Hollywood Blonds have made a mistake by going after Arn and me, because we're Horsemen. Now they have to deal with all of us."

Maybe so, but how do **Ole Anderson** and **Paul Roma** figure in all of this? I have nothing but the utmost respect for Ric Flair, but I wonder how long this "new attitude" will last. Sure, Flair will carry the flag for The Four Horsemen until his dying day, but he's talking tag team titles?

The Ric Flair I know has a gigantic ego, and he can back it up. He's at his best when he's in the ring alone, focusing on one opponent. His yesteryear wars with the likes of **Harley Race**, **Rick Steamboat**, **Randy "Macho Man" Savage**, and Bret Hart were classics. I'd love



"What was it you did before you got into wrestling, kid?"

J. Watkins

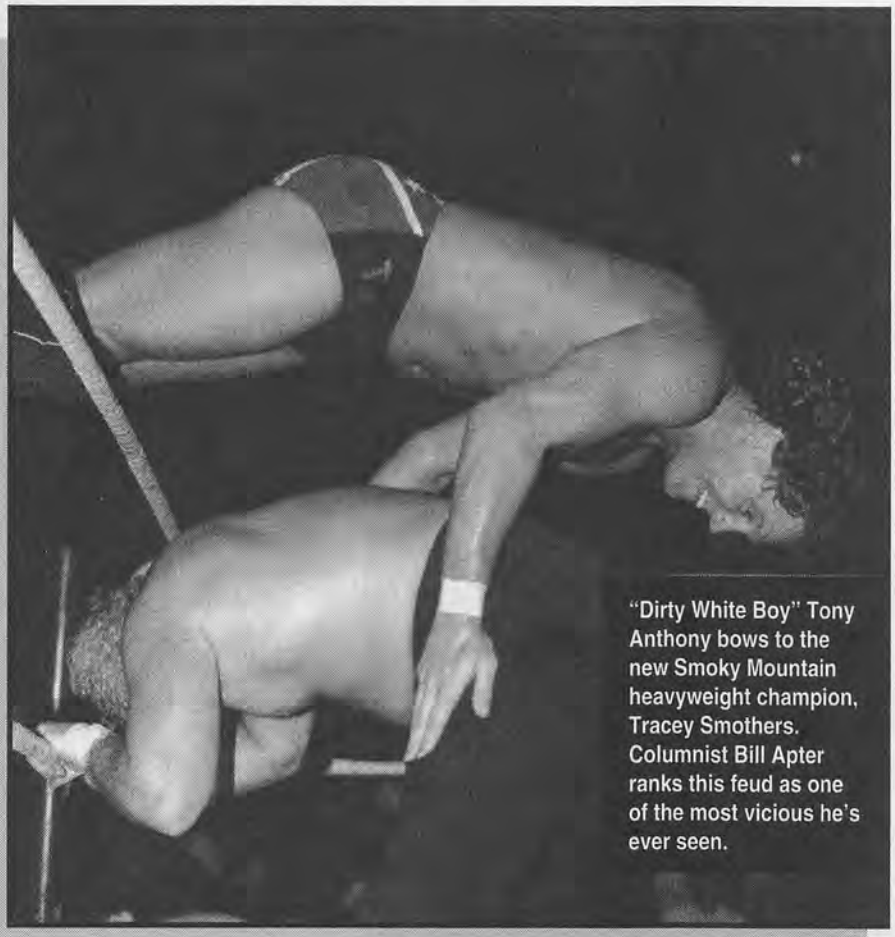
to see him give it one more all-out effort to win that 10th world belt. My money says he could beat WCW titleholder **Big Van Vader** or NWA champion Windham right now.

Whereas the U.S. title was still held up at press time after the controversial **Rick Rude-Dustin Rhodes** "shoulders up" match, Smoky Mountain does finally have a champion. **Tracey Smothers** won the held-up belt by defeating nemesis **"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony**. Their feud, however, remains one of the most vicious I've seen in some time. Maybe they've learned from the presence of a guy who can feud with the best—and bloodiest—of them, **Kevin Sullivan**.

The latest twist has Anthony's manager, **Ron Wright**, placing a $20,000 bounty on the head of Smothers. Attention all mercenaries!

At the same time, not-so-**Heavenly Body Jim Cornette** has enticed **The Bruise Brothers** into Smoky Mountain. Cornette hasn't agreed to manage the duo, but he wants them around as an insurance policy against enemies **Scott** and **Steve Armstrong**. Call him anything you wish (chunky, out-of-shape, a weasel, for instance), but don't call Cornette stupid. He's already got **Bob Armstrong** on his tail, so he needs all the help he can get.

That's all for now. See you at ringside! □



"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony bows to the new Smoky Mountain heavyweight champion, Tracey Smothers. Columnist Bill Apter ranks this feud as one of the most vicious he's ever seen.

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from the desk of...

(Continued from page 6)

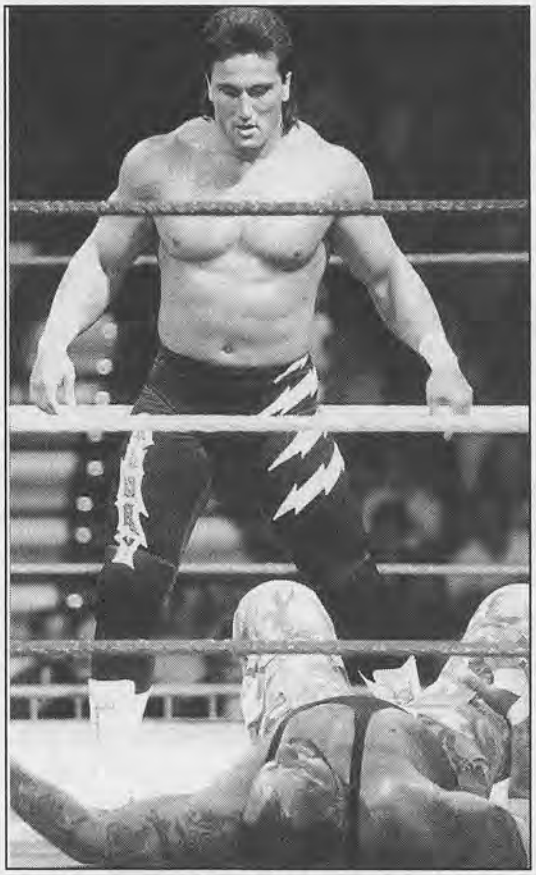
me, but I feel it. Between the second and third round, which would have been the last, Tyson says to one of his handlers, 'C'mon, get me a sparring partner, get rid of this joker.'

"Well, that's all I had to hear. I come storming out of my corner at the bell, throw one haymaker right and drop Tyson on his back. His nose is broken, and he's bleeding all over the place.

"A photographer who was at the training site—I think it was Bill Apter, only he had hair—caught a perfect picture of the punch and Tyson bleeding, and it ran on the wire services in every newspaper in the country the next day. Now, the big fight with Bowe is only three weeks away. They've already got all this money in the till, so they don't want to cancel the fight. All of a sudden, there is this massive outcry for me to take Tyson's place."

In a short career, Roma has already gone from wrestler to boxer, back to wrestler.

It's about here, as Roma describes it, that *The Wizard Of Oz* portion kicks in. "I get all excited about the hype at first, and, of course, the guaranteed $20-million purse was okay, too. But it quickly became clear to me and everyone else that I was not ready for an opponent of Bowe's caliber. Now, every opponent I faced in sparring was looking to knock me off to see if they could become the substitute for the substitute and pocket the big money. They brought in all kinds of sparring partners who had tons more experience than I did. I think one of them was—now don't laugh—Joe Louis!



Luke Williams isn't Riddick Bowe, but Paul Roma is very happy to be a wrestler again. The newest member of The Four Horseman found that he was not ready to start from the bottom as a boxer.

"It was pretty awful. I was just starting out in boxing. I was still fighting four-round preliminaries, and here I was, man, I was over my head. I was getting clobbered in the gym, and headlines began referring to me as 'The $20-Million Bum.'

"Within my dream, I knew I was dreaming. Did you ever get that? I wanted to wake up so badly. I kept saying over and over again, 'I don't want to be a boxer, I

Despite a lot of hard work, Roma never reached elite status in the WWF. He's hoping to change that as a member of The Four Horseman.

don't want to be a bum again. I don't want to be a boxer. I don't want to be a bum again.'

"Finally, I woke up, and you know what? I wasn't a boxer anymore. I was a wrestler again."

What was particularly bothersome to Roma was not a fear of fighting Bowe, it was the people who called him a bum. You see, when Roma first began his career, he showed a lot of promise, but also a lot of notches in the "L" column. He was what some people who follow this sport coldly refer to as a prelim bum. Through a great deal of hard work, Roma made the seldom-seen leap from loser to winner. His partnership with Powers produced moderate success, which, for Roma, was a tremendous leap. Next came Power and Glory, his partnership with Hercules Hernandez, and they almost made it all the way to the top.

From that point, however, Roma's career floundered. He was looking for some opportunities for some big solo matches, and when those opportunities didn't materialize, he got frustrated. "I blamed a lot of my problems on a lot of people," he says, "but when it came right down to it, it was up to me to make my own breaks."

It was then that Roma's professional life took a serious detour. He gave up wrestling in favor of boxing, hoping he could write a new life story on a clean slate. But what he realized by the time he had established a 2-1 pro mark was that he was refilling the same footprints he had made six years earlier as a wrestler.

"I was starting from nowhere," he says. "It was tough enough the first time around. I wasn't sure I could go through it again, but something inside me said that if I quit boxing after quitting wrestling, I would have a tough time convincing people—and myself, for that matter—that I was not a quitter."

Roma admittedly was looking for a way to get back into wrestling "without having to grovel at some promoter's feet." Perhaps he even did some praying, because his door opened up when Tully Blanchard, an evangelical born-again Christian, decided at the last moment to turn down an invitation to rejoin The Four Horsemen in WCW. In need of a quick replacement, the Horsemen turned to Roma, who quickly said hello to Ric Flair and the Andersons and goodbye to his haunted dreams.

To quote Dorothy near the end of *The Wizard Of Oz:* "If I ever go looking for my heart's desire again, I won't look any further than my own backyard." □

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10. Leg Lock	40. Flying Elbow Drop
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13. Front Face Lock	43. Back Breaker
14. Hip Toss	44. Neck Breaker
15. Body Tackle	45. Claw
16. Body Slam	46. Leg Drop
17. Karate Kick	47. Figure Four
18. Karate Chop	48. Big Splash
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22. Irish Whip	52. Cradle
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WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW

(Continued from page 12)

William is doing what all good managers do. He is sticking up for his charge. He is attempting to convince the skeptics that Regal did precisely what he had to do, and that William was the man to help him do it. What William says sounds good. What Regal's foes say sounds worse.

"The old Steve Regal, if you can call him that, was very serious in the ring," said one recent opponent. "He was straightforward, and the last thing he wanted to do in there was waste time. He definitely wasn't someone you looked forward to wrestling. Today, he only seems to care about looking good. He and his manager create all this nonsense, and it distracts from his talents. I can't take him that seriously anymore."

"Regal says nothing's changed," Rick Steamboat offered, "but, of course, it has. When Steve arrived in WCW, I was proud to see him here. I felt glad for him because he finally had made the big-time. He appeared to be a hard worker who wanted success the right way. It's easy to respect such a man. I'm sorry to see him taking the shortcuts. He's still a solid competitor, but I don't fear him so much as I pity him."

Steamboat's views reflect those of even most WCW rulebreakers.

As a fan favorite, Regal engages Maxx Payne in a test of strength. As a rulebreaker, however, Regal must count on the shaky support of fellow rulebreakers like Payne—which, in effect, makes Regal a loner.

Regal and Sir William insist they don't have the time or trust to form alliances with fan favorites such as Marcus Alexander Bagwell.

Publicly, Regal receives their support, but many of them question whether he'll stick with the plan he and William have formulated.

"So far they've been talking a good game," said a prominent WCW rulebreaker. "I certainly think they're on the right course. But I have my doubts about them, Regal in particular. Is his heart into doing what needs to be done to win? Maybe it is and maybe it isn't. I'll leave it up to him to prove. A bunch of us are watching him very closely."

If Regal doesn't have the confidence of his fellow rulebreakers, he's in trouble, because his old friends aren't about to extend assistance. Again, naturally, William puts a bright face on a potentially harrowing situation.

"Lord Steven and I are prepared to go it alone if we have to," he insists. "Our aim is to win championships, not form entangling alliances. They talk about trust; how can we trust them? We fear no one, nor do we ask for their help. If we believe that in order to win the World championship—or any other title—we must alienate every other man in WCW, we will do that."

One must wonder if Regal ever thinks about what his career was like before he hooked up with William. He was well-respected. He had friends on whom he could rely. He did not have to endure endless abuse from fans who once treated him kindly. It was the kind of career Regal sought when he journeyed to WCW from England.

Now his situation is dramatically different, because he made it that way. He's convinced that his new attitude will bring him new titles and new glory. It may bring that, but it has already brought him disdain and disrespect. For how long can he live with that?

Sometimes, boring is better.

Steve Regal's career has changed considerably since he hooked up with his new manager, Sir William. Is the change for the better? Perhaps not.

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BETWEEN FALLS

(Continued from page 9)

Brutus Beefcake, Hulk Hogan, and Vince McMahon's joy in the "Hulkster's" WrestleMania IX title win is not shared by reader Ty Whitney.

seen nor heard from Beefcake. He has even disappeared from most interviews with Hogan.

Another loser is the fans. We were looking forward to seeing a different version of Hulkamania in The Megamaniacs, but now that Hogan is the champ again, we are back to the same old stuff.

TY WHITNEY
Marathon, NY

(☎) EXPANDING HORIZONS

I was thrilled to see that WCW has entered territory that was once dominated by the WWF ("A New Era In Wrestling? WCW Takes Manhattan!" August 1993). As far as I'm concerned, WCW is by far the top wrestling federation in the world today. With talent like Sting, Big Van Vader, Ric Flair, Rick Rude, and Dustin Rhodes, who else could stack up? I only hope this does mark the beginning of a new era, when WCW stars will get a chance to display their wares all around the country and all over the globe.

JASON RICHARDS
Billings, MT

RETURNING RIC

Lately, everyone have been criticizing Ric Flair for not jumping into competition right away. Rumors are floating around that Flair is scared of the new breed of wrestlers in WCW and its champions. In case you haven't noticed, "The Nature Boy" has already begun his quest.

Some might say that Flair is goofing around with his interview segment "A Flair For the Gold," but notice who his guests are: WCW World champ Big Van Vader, NWA champ Barry Windham (a no-show), and WCW tag team champions The Hollywood Blonds. As far as I'm concerned, Flair is already scouting.

It's doubtful he'll waste time with TV champion Paul Orndorff, who should have stayed retired. If he does, Orndorff will just get "Paula-

Ric Flair's "A Flair for the Gold" segments help "The Nature Boy" scout opponents, suggests Rich Stagnato.

ed" off the show. But it will be Rick Rude who brings Flair back to the ring. As far as a 10th world title goes, Flair will win it from Vader – Horsemen style – just to have twice as many as his true archrival, Hulk Hogan.

RICH STAGNATO
Woodbridge, VA □

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November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase,** Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant,** JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler,** Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich,** Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter,** Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors,** Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel,** Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat,** Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich,** Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan,** Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express,** Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage,** Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff,** Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs,** Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper,** Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament,** T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan,** UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.,** Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage,** Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre,** Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair,** Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff,** Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase,** Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage,** Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger,** Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre,** Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. **Hulk Hogan,** Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. **Hogan vs. Andre,** Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan,** Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. **Hogan,** Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Four Horsemen,** Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth,** Warriors, Sting.

February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts. **Luger,** Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

April 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steiner. **Savage,** Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

June 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Hogan vs. Savage**, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

July 1989/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Steamboat,** Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

August 1989/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Hogan,** Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

October 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Rude. **Luger vs. Hogan,** Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

November 1989/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Rhodes,** Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

December 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jimmy Snuka. **Luger, Vicious, Muta, Sting,** Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn.

January 1990/COLOR PINUP: Sid Vicious. **Ultimate,** Cornette, Ross, Kerry.

February 1990/COLOR PINUP: Bret Hart. **Lex Luger,** Hogan, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams, Woman.

April 1990/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Ric Flair,** Hennig vs. Hogan, Sting, Rockers, Lawler.

May 1990/COLOR PINUP: The Great Muta. **Hulk Hogan,** Skyscrapers, R&R Express, Piper, Embry.

June 1990/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Hogan vs. Warrior,** R&R Express, Rhodes vs. Savage, Arn vs. Sawyer.

July 1990/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger,** Beefcake, Skyscrapers, Heenan, Saito, referees.

September 1990/PINUP: Rick & Scott Steiner. COLOR FEATURES: **Hogan,** Sting, Horsemen, Hennig.

October 1990/PINUP: Brutus Beefcake. COLOR FEATURES: **Sting,** Tugboat, Ultimate, Long, Blanchard-Orndorff.

November 1990/PINUP: Legion of Doom. COLOR FEATURES: **Sting beats Flair,** Rude-Warrior.

December 1990/PINUP: Sting. COLOR FEATURES: **Legion of Doom, Kerry, Slaughter,** Doom, Horsemen.

January 1991/PINUP: Kerry Von Erich. COLOR FEATURES: **WWF vs. NWA,**Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri.

February 1991/PINUP: 1991 calendar. COLOR FEATURES: Scott Steiner, Vicious vs. Luger, Rhodes vs. DiBiase.

April 1991/PINUP: Tom Zenk. COLOR FEATURES: **Sgt. Slaughter,** Hogan & Warrior, Magnum T.A., Lawler-Gilbert.

May 1991/PINUP: Arn Anderson. COLOR FEATURES: **Hogan**, Rude, Flair-Sting, Thesz.

June 1991/PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. COLOR FEATURES: **Hogan**, Doom, Horsemen, Steiner.

July 1991/PINUP: Brian Pillman. COLOR FEATURES: **Hogan**, Luger, Demolition, Embry, Horsemen-Vicious.

October 1991/PINUP: Lex Luger. COLOR FEATURES: **Justice**, Hogan-Slaughter, Windham, Williams.

November 1991/PINUP: Bobby Eaton. COLOR FEATURES: **Savage & Elizabeth**, Bushwhackers, Liger, Pillman.

December 1991/PINUP: Rick Steamboat. COLOR FEATURES: ***PWI* 500**, Simmons, Badd, Hogan-Flair.

January 1992/PINUP: Ron Simmons. COLOR FEATURES: **Flair**, R. Steiner, Ultimate, Luger.

February 1992/PINUP: 1992 calendar. COLOR FEATURES: **Hogan**, Gilbert, Roberts-Justice, hot prospects.

April 1992/PINUP: Ric Flair. COLOR FEATURES: **Sting-Luger**, Rockers, WWF Violence, Dangerous Alliance.

May 1992/PINUP: Rick Rude. COLOR FEATURES: **Hogan**, Sting & Muta vs. Steiners, Savage-Roberts.

June 1992/PINUP: Dustin Rhodes. COLOR FEATURES: **Piper** interview, Abdullah-Cactus, Flair-Savage, Justice.

July 1992/PINUP: Randy Savage. COLOR FEATURES: **Best of the Best**, Flair, U.S.-Japan, Savage.

September 1992/PINUP: Nikita Koloff. FEATURES: Justice, **Sting-Savage**, Backlund, Steiners, Michaels.

October 1992/PINUP: Cactus Jack. FEATURES: **Savage vs. Warrior**, Embry-Moondogs, Z-Man, Japan fire match.

November 1992/PINUP: The Ultimate Warrior. FEATURES: **British Bulldog**, Undertaker, Steiners, Honky Tonk Man interview.

December 1992/PINUP: Big Van Vader. FEATURES: **PWI 500**, Bossman-Nailz, Watt & WCW rules, Justice interview.

January 1993/PINUP: Jeff Jarrett. FEATURES: **Flair/SummerSlam**, Simmons by Bowden, Von Erich interview.

February 1993/PINUP: Curt Hennig. FEATURES: **Ramon**, Snuka-Muraco, Rude, Rhodes, Roberts interview.

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ARENA REPORTS

FLORIDA

TAMPA—ICWA at the Tampa Sportatorium: **Kangaroo Kid** defeated **The Candy Man** ... **The Southern Posse** defeated **Big Bill Tyree** and **Navy Seal** in a lumberjack match ... **Fantasy** defeated **Sir Ronald J. Neenee IV** by disqualification ... ICWA light heavyweight champion **Rico Frederico** defeated **The Coconut** ... **Top Gun Assassin** defeated **Jumbo Baretta** to become the new ICWA television champion ... ICWA heavyweight champion **Frankie Rose** defeated **"Brandon Bad Boy" Jeff Bradley.**
(06-03-93)

—Shannon Rose

JACKSONVILLE—WCW at the Memorial Coliseum: **Erik Watts** defeated **Joey Maggs** (who was substituting for **The Barbarian**) with the STF ... **Erik Watts** (who was substituting for **Dick Slater**) beat **Thor** with the STF ... **Maxx Payne** defeated **Kensuke Sasaki** ... **Arn Anderson** beat **The Barbarian** (who was substituting for **Chris Benoit**) ... **Ron Simmons** beat **Dick Slater** (who was substituting for **Paul Orndorff**) ... **Sting** & **Davey Boy Smith** defeated TV champion **Paul Orndorff** & **Rick Rude** whem Smith pinned Orndorff with a backslide ... NWA champion **Barry Windham** beat **Dustin Rhodes.**
(05-28-93)

—Ben Ford

JACKSONVILLE—PWF at the Naval Base: **Flaming Youth** won an eight-man battle royal, ousting **Russian Assassin II** ... Heavyweight champion **Italian Stallion** beat **Terry Austin** ... Junior heavyweight champion **George South** beat **Cruel Connection II** ... **Bambi** beat **Peggy Lee Leather** to become the first PWF women's champion ... **Scotty McKeever** beat **Mad Dog.**
(05-20-93)

—Brock Chandler

ATLANTA—WCW's "Slamboree '93" at The Omni: **2 Cold Scorpio** & **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** defeated **Bobby Eaton** & **Chris Benoit** when Scorpio pinned Benoit at 9:22 ... **Sid Vicious** pinned **Van Hammer** in 35 seconds ... In a six-man legends match, **Dick Murdoch**, **Magnificent Muraco**, & **Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka** battled to a no-contest with **Wahoo McDaniel**, **Blackjack Mulligan**, & **Jim Brunzell** ... In a legends match, **Thunderbolt Patterson** & **Brad Armstrong** defeated **Ivan Koloff** & **Baron Von Raschke** when Patterson pinned Von Raschke at 4:39 ... In a legends match, **Dory Funk Jr.** and **Nick Bockwinkel** wrestled to a 15-minute time-limit draw ... **Rick Rude** & TV champion **Paul Orndorff** defeated **Dustin Rhodes** & **Kensuke Sasaki** when Rude pinned Sasaki at 9:25 ... In a bounty match, **Sting** pinned **The Prisoner** at 5:16 ... WCW World tag team champions **Brian Pillman** & **Steve Austin** defeated **Rick Steamboat** & **Shane Douglas** when Austin pinned Douglas at 16:08 ... NWA World champion **Barry Windham** pinned **Arn Anderson** at 10:55 ... **Davey Boy Smith** beat WCW World champion **Big Van Vader** by disqualification in 16:16.
(05-23-93)

—Burton Crane

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE—WCW at the Baltimore Arena: **Kent** & **Keith Cole** defeated **The Wrecking Crew** ... **Maxx Payne** defeated **Joey Maggs** by submission ... **Arn Anderson** pinned **Erik Watts** following a DDT; after the match, Anderson and Watts shook hands ... **Rick Rude** pinned **Kensuke Sasaki**, but pulled his tights to do so ... **Dustin Rhodes** defeated TV champion **Paul Orndorff** by forfeit when it was announced that Orndorff was unable to wrestle ... **Dustin Rhodes** defeated **Rick Rude** by disqualification when Orndorff interfered; moments later, Sasaki ran in to break up the two-on-one attack on "The Natural" ... **Davey Boy Smith** defeated WCW World champion **Big Van Vader** by disqualification ... NWA champion **Barry Windham** pinned **Rick Steamboat**, but put his feet on the ropes to do so.
(05-20-93)

—Timothy A. Walker

MISSISSIPPI

BILOXI—WWF at the Coast Coliseum: **Tito Santana** defeated **"Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi** ... **The Headshrinkers** defeated **The Smokin' Gunns** ... **Kamala** defeated **Kim Chee** ... **Doink** defeated **Crush** ... **The Bushwhackers** & **Tiger Jackson** defeated **Damian Dimento, Blake Beverly,** & **Little Louie** ... **Lex Luger** defeated **Bret Hart** ... **The Undertaker** and **Giant Gonzales** battled to a double-disqualification.
(05-31-93)

—Travis Edgeworth & Melonie Pearman

NEW JERSEY

LAKE HIAWATHA—East Coast Professional Wrestling at the ECPW Arena: The entire night's matches were a tournament to crown ECW tag team champions. ***Quarterfinals:*** **Quick & Deadly**—**Kodiak Bear** & **Damian Stone**—defeated **Dennis Knight** & **Nick Caliber** ... **Hawaiian Hurricane** & **Special K** defeated **Metalhead** & **Jackknife Johnny** ... **Young Lust** defeated **The Executioners** ... **The Texas Bad Boys** defeated **The New Fatal Attraction** ... **Helter Skelter** and **The Jersey Boys** battled to a double-disqualification. ***Semifinals:*** Quick & Deadly defeated Hawaiian Hurricane & Special K by disqualification ... Young Lust beat The Texas Bad Boys. ***Finals:*** Quick & Deadly defeated Young Lust to capture the ECPW tag team championship.
(05-26-93)

—Johnny Gnat

NEW YORK

ALBANY—WWF at Knickerbocker Arena: **Shawn Michaels** regained the Intercontinental title from **Marty Jannetty** ... **Papa Shango** beat **Jim Powers** ... **Tatanka** beat **Bam Bam Bigelow** by disqualification ... **Owen Hart** pinned **Terry Taylor** ... **Yokozuna** beat **Hacksaw Duggan** ... **Luna Vachon** pinned **Sensational Sherri** when **Bam Bam Bigelow** interfered ... World champion **Hulk Hogan** & **Brutus Beefcake** beat World tag team champions **Money Inc.** by disqualification.
(06-06-93)

—Mark Breault

NEW YORK—*WWF Monday Night Raw* at the Manhattan Center: **Mr. Hughes** and **Tatanka** battled to a double-disqualification ... **Bastion Booger** and **Bob Backlund** battled to a 10-minute time-limit draw ... **Russ Greenburg** beat **L.A. Gore** ... Intercontinental champion **Marty Jannetty** defeated **Bam Bam Bigelow** by countout ... **Rick** & **Scott Steiner** defeated **Rick Myers** & **The Executioner** when Scott pinned Myers ... **Mr. Hughes** defeated **Bert Santana** ... **Hacksaw Duggan** beat **Mark Thomas** ... **Razor Ramon** beat **Tony Roy** ... **Yokozuna** & **Bam Bam Bigelow** defeated **Rick Steiner** & **Hacksaw Duggan** by disqualification.
(05-31-93)

—Hailey Apter

NEW YORK—*WWF Monday Night Raw* at the Manhattan Center: **The Kid** pinned **Razor Ramon** in 2:11 ... **"Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig** beat **Doink II** ... World tag team champions **Money Inc.** defeated **Mike Bell** & **Tony DiVito** ... **Adam Bomb** beat **Phil**

The results in "Arena Reports" are culled from a month's worth of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletters. Readers of *PWI Weekly* received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to subscribe to *PWI Weekly,* see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

Apollo ... **The Smokin' Gunns** beat **Glen Ruth** & **Tony Vajda** ... **Tatanka** pinned **Scott Taylor** ... **Marty Jannetty** defeated **Shawn Michaels** to capture the Intercontinental title ... **Crush** defeated **Bobby Who** ... **Bret Hart** defeated **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... **Yokozuna** beat **Kamala.**
(05-17-93)

—Burton Crane

NORTH CAROLINA

BUNN—CCWA at the High School: **Mad Dog** beat **The Intruder** ... **The Gemini Kid** beat **Mike Yamaha** ... **Mark Ash** beat **Johnny Dollars** ... **Jimmy Cicero** & **Steve Storm** beat **Mike Maverick** & **David Taylor** ... **Jimmy Valentine** beat **Chris Stevenson** ... **Iron Chief** beat **Pat Anderson** by disqualification ... **Buckshot** beat **Khan the Warlord.**
(06-05-93)

—Henry Dean

ROCKINGHAM—PWF at the Firehouse: **Italian Stallion** & **Flaming Youth** won an eight-team battle royal ... Junior heavyweight champion **George South** beat **Scotty McKeever** ... **Cruel Connection II** defeated **The Black Scorpion** ... **Super Brat** beat **Mad Dog** ... **Terry Austin** defeated **Killdozer.**
(06-05-93)
—Brock Chandler

KINGS MOUNTAIN—PWF at the Armory: **Scotty McKeever** won an eight-man bunkhouse battle royal ... **Italian Stallion & Flaming Youth** beat **Terry Austin & Austin Steele** ... Junior heavyweight champion **George South** defeated **Cruel Connection II** ... **Black Scorpion** defeated **Mad Dog.**
(05-29-93)

—Ernie Allen

OHIO

CLEVELAND—WCW at the Cleveland State University Convocation Center: **Erik Watts** defeated **T.J. Arion** by submission to the STF ... **Maxx Payne** pinned **Kensuke Sasaki** after an elbowdrop ... **Ron Simmons** pinned television champion **Paul Orndorff** in a non-title match ... **Arn Anderson** (substituting for **2 Cold Scorpio**) & **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** defeated **Steve Austin** & **Steve Regal** (substituting for **Brian Pillman**) when Anderson pinned Regal after a spinebuster ... **Dustin Rhodes** pinned **Rick Rude** ... **Davey Boy Smith** defeated World heavyweight champion **Big Van Vader** by disqualification when **Harley Race** interfered.
(06-04-93)

—Jeff Gorman

OKLAHOMA

STILLWATER—Power Zone Wrestling Alliance: **Running Wild Eagle** and **Treacherous Phillips Jr.** wrestled to a 10-minute draw ... **Casey Cannon** pinned **TNT** ... **"Gambler" Rick Garrett** (accompanied by **Lady Luck**) pinned **Dr. X** (accompanied by **Mr. Sawyer,** a protege of **Gen. Skandor Akbar**) ... **Wild Maverick** defeated **Slash** by disqualification ... **Ragin' Cajun** defeated **Country Boy Cal** by countout ... **Tom Jones** & **Casey Cannon** defeated **"Beach Boy" Shawn Summers** & **The Shadow** when Cannon pinned Shadow.
(06-05-93)

—Clark Peterson

OREGON

PORTLAND—Championship Wrestling USA at the Interstate Pavilion: **Buddy Wayne** beat **Col. DeBeers** by disqualification when DeBeers hit Wayne with an American flag ... **Rambo** beat **Nick Danger** ... **Al Madril** fought **The Silver Shadow** to a 15-minute draw ... **Lou Andrews** beat **Sumito** ... **Jim** & **Karl Pope** defeated **Dane Rush** & **Bruiser Brian** ... **Jesse Barr** beat **"Superfly" Jimmy Snuka** by disqualification.
(06-05-93)

—Kenn Jones

PORTLAND—Championship Wrestling USA at the Interstate Pavilion: **Carl Pope** beat **John Rambo** by disqualification ... **Jim Pope** and **Al Madril** battled to a 10-minute draw ... **Skywalker** beat **Lou "Big Dog" Andrews** by disqualification ... **J.B. Trash** and **"Great Dane" Rush** wrestled to a 15-minute draw ... **The Silver Shadow** beat **Bruiser Brian** by disqualification ... **"Lightning" Buddy Wayne** defeated television champion **Col. DeBeers** by disqualification ... **Sumito** & **Jimmy Snuka** battled **Jesse Barr** & **Ryuma Go** to a double-disqualification.
(05-29-93)

—Kenn Jones

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA—WWF at the Spectrum: **Owen Hart** pinned **Terry Taylor** ... **Doink** defeated **Crush** ... **Randy Savage** defeated **Giant Gonzales** by disqualification ... **The Headshrinkers** defeated **Rick** & **Scott Steiner** when **Fatu** pinned Rick ... **Virgil** defeated **Blake Beverly** ... **Tatanka** defeated **Razor Ramon** ... **Hulk Hogan** & **Brutus Beefcake** defeated World tag team champions **Money Inc.** by disqualification when special referee **Sgt. Slaughter** disqualified Money Inc. for using a briefcase against their opponents.
(05-22-93)

—Jack Masters

LANGHORNE—United World Wrestling "Cage Collision '93" at Neshaminy High School: **The Big Rig 4x4** pinned **Midnight Morrison** ... **The Cheetah Kid** pinned **The Black Scorpion** in a mask vs. mask match ... **The Rockin' Rebel** pinned **Larry Winters** ... **Tony Stallone** pinned **Max Thrasher** ... **Brittany Brown** defeated **Alexa Starr** in a steel cage match ... **The Warlord** defeated **Tony Atlas** in a steel cage match.
(05-22-93)

—Joe Vincent

PHILADELPHIA—WCW at the Civic Center: **Kent** & **Keith Cole** defeated **Bob Starr** & **Joey Maggs** ... **Erik Watts** pinned **Fury** of **The Wrecking Crew** ... **Dustin Rhodes** pinned **Maxx Payne** (substituting for **Paul Orndorff**) ... **Maxx Payne** pinned **Kensuke Sasaki** ... **Arn Anderson** pinned **Bobby Eaton** ... NWA champion **Barry Windham** pinned **Rick Steamboat** ... **Sting** & **Davey Boy Smith** defeated **Big Van Vader** & **Rick Rude** by disqualification.
(05-21-93)

—Burton Crane

HERSHEY—WWF at Hersheypark Arena: **Tito Santana** beat **"Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi** ... **Luna Vachon** defeated **Sensational Sherri** when **Bam Bam Bigelow** interfered ... Intercontinental champion **Marty Jannetty** defeated **Papa Shango** ... **Yokozuna** defeated **Hacksaw Duggan** when **Mr. Fuji** interfered ... **Bob Backlund** defeated **Damian Dimento** ... **Lex Luger** pinned **Bret Hart** ... **The Undertaker** defeated **Bam Bam Bigelow.**
(05-21-93)

—Mike Shaw

TENNESSEE

KNOXVILLE—Southern Wrestling Federation at the Electric Ballroom: **The Mongolian Stomper** and **The Gladiator** wrestled to a 15-minute draw ... **Johnny Manson** beat **Jerry Manuel** ... **Hurricane Hatchet** pinned **The Night Rider** ... **Steve Flynn** beat **Stefan Wolf** ... **The Black Inferno** & **The Wild Samoan** defeated **The Young Guns** as Samoan pinned **Scott Sterling** ... **The Sandman** beat **Jimmy Golden** ... **"Dirty White Boy" Tom Davis** pinned **Chris Champion.**
(06-06-93)

—Bill Needham

OLIVER SPRINGS—Tennessee All-Star Wrestling at Norwood Elementary School: **Rick Connors** defeated **"Dr. Death" Max Powers** ... **Tom Pitner** beat **Tony Morocco** ... **Chris Powers** & **Rex Harkgrove** wrestled to a no-contest ... **"Nature Boy" Buddy Landell** & **"Cowboy" Paul Ray** beat **The Masked Assassin** & **Tom Pitner** when Ray pinned Pitner ... **"Cowboy" Paul Ray** won a $500 battle royal.
(06-05-93)

—Bill Needham

FALL BRANCH—Southern States Wrestling at the Sampson Center: **Mr. X** beat **Midnight Mauler** ... **Loverboy Lyons** pinned **Bam Bam Christian** ... **Eddie "Wild Thing" Golden** defeated **Alex Shane** in a first blood match to capture the light heavyweight title ... **Danny, Bam Bam Christian,** & **G.Q. Stratus** defeated **Chic White, Tennessee Equalizer,** & **The Godfather** when Stratus pinned Godfather.
(06-04-93)

—Bill Needham

NASHVILLE—USWA at the Fairgrounds: **Mark Freer** beat **Tony Falk** ... **Danny Davis** defeated **Master of Terror I** ... **Jeff Gaylord** defeated **C.W. Bergstrom** by disqualification ...Southern champion **Brian Christopher** pinned **Moondog Spot** ... USWA tag team champions **Rex King** & **Steve Doll** beat **Jerry Lawler** & **Koko B. Ware** by disqualification.
(05-29-93)

—Mark Mitchell

KNOXVILLE—Southern Wrestling Association at the Electric Ballroom: **Chris Champion** defeated **Tom Davis** ... **John Manson** defeated **Hurricane Hatchet** ... **The Gladiator** defeated **Mongolian Stomper** by disqualification ... **The Orient Express** beat **Thunder Tiger** & **Greg Caldwell** ... **Night Rider** & **The Sandman** beat **Jimmy Golden** & **The Beast**.
(05-23-93)

—Bill Needham

MORRISTOWN—SMW at East High School: **Bobby Blaze** defeated **Robbie Eagle** ... **Mongolian Stomper** defeated **Mike Sampson** ... **Tim Horner** beat **Jim Cornette** when **"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony** interfered ... Tag team champions **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **Dutch Mantel** & **Jimmy Golden** when **Robert Gibson** pinned Mantel ... **Tracey Smothers** beat **"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony** in a chain match.
(05-22-93)

—Bill Needham

TEXAS

DALLAS—Global Wrestling Federation at the Sportatorium: **Bam Bam Richardson** & **Johnny Dollar** beat **Ricky Long** & **Thunder Warrior** ... **Action Jackson** defeated **Bull Man Downs** ... **Booker T** defeated **Steven Dane** ... **Iceman Parsons** beat **Chris Adams** when **Toni Adams** interfered ... **Calvin Knapp** battled to a draw with **Mike Lane** ... **Plowboy Wilbur** defeated **Crybaby Buxton** ... **Black Bart** & **John Hawk** beat **Mike Davis** & **Cousin Elvis** ... **Tribal Nation** beat **The Sicilian Studs** by disqualification ... **Stevie Ray** beat **Killer Brooks** by disqualification.
(05-28-93)

—Sam Neirson

DALLAS—National Class Wrestling at the Longhorn Ballroom: **Mad Dog Billy** beat **Country Dog** ... **Big D** pinned **Ray Evans** ... **Iceman Parsons** defeated **Chad Champion** ... **Action Jackson** defeated **Billy Steele** ... **King Kong** & **Awesome Kong** defeated **Chris Barrett** & **Thunder Warrior**.
(05-24-93)

—Mark Lehman

DALLAS—GWF at the Sportatorium: **Black Bart** defeated **Mike Davis** ... **The Angel of Death** beat **Killer Brooks** ... **Action Jackson** & **Stevie Ray** defeated **Iceman Parsons** & **Colossal Kong** ... **Calvin Knapp** beat **Dapper Dan** ... **John Hawk** defeated **Ricky Gonzalez** ... **Guido Falcone** beat **Chad Star** ... **Crybaby Buxton** defeated **Johnny Reb** ... **Chris Adams** and **Iceman Parsons** battled to a double-disqualification when **Toni Adams** interfered on behalf of Parsons.
(05-21-93)

—Jeff Barker

VIRGINIA

RICHLANDS—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at Richlands High School: **Bobby Blaze** beat **Mike Samson** ... **Tracey Smothers** defeated **"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony** ... **Robbie Eagle** drew with **Bobby Blaze** ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **Dutch Mantel** & **Jimmy Golden** ... **Robert Gibson** won a battle royal.
(05-29-93)

—Fred Milcher

MEADOWVIEW—SMW at Meadowview High School: **Tim Horner** beat **Bobby Blaze** ... **Brian Lee** defeated **Mike Samson** ... **Tracey Smothers** defeated **"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony** ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** defeated **Dutch Mantel** & **Jimmy Golden** ... **Tim Horner** won a battle royal.
(05-27-93)

—Frank Terrell

WEST VIRGINIA

IAEGER—PWF at Iaeger High School: **Cruel Connection II** won an eight-man battle royal ... Heavyweight champion **Italian Stallion** defeated **Terry Austin** ... Junior heavyweight champion **George South** beat **Flaming Youth** ... **Scotty McKeever** defeated **Russian Assassin II**.
(05-28-93)

—Nancy Whittle

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

CLOVERDALE, BRITISH COLUMBIA—West Coast Championship Wrestling: **Dobie Gillis** pinned **Vicious Verne Siebert** ... **Johnny Canuck** defeated **Luscious Lance Idol** ... **Mike "The Olympian" Roselli** defeated **Akem Singh** by disqualification ... **Mr. Tomko** won by disqualification over **The White Dragon** ... **The Mighty Quinn** defeated **Michelle Starr** in a chain match ... In a mixed tag team match, **Diamond Timothy Flowers, Firefighter Adrian**, & **Wonderful Wendy** defeated **Rocky Della Serra, Jason The Invincible**, & **Miss T** when Wendy pinned Jason after Flowers piledrived him.
(06-05-93)

—Stuart Kemp

KITCHENER, ONTARIO—WWF at Memorial Auditorium: **Virgil** pinned **Damian Dimento** ... **Papa Shango** pinned **Tito Santana** ... **Bob Backlund** beat **Blake Beverly** ... **Yokozuna** beat **Hacksaw Duggan** ... **The Headshrinkers** beat **The Smokin' Gunns** when **Samu** pinned **Billy Gunn** ... **"Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig** beat **Shawn Michaels** ... **Bret Hart** beat **Lex Luger**.
(05-26-93)

—Steve Argintaru

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA—*WWF Superstars of Wrestling* and *WWF Mania* television tapings at the Metro Centre: **Tatanka** pinned **Razor Ramon** ... **Tito Santana** defeated **Fatu** by disqualification after **Samu** interfered ... **Owen Hart** pinned **Blake Beverly** ... **Crush** beat **Billy Tempest** by submission ... **Rick** & **Scott Steiner** beat **Mike Sharpe** & **Mark LeRoux** ... **Razor Ramon** pinned **Burt Centeno** ... **The Undertaker** pinned **P.J. Walker**. After the match, **Giant Gonzales** and **Mr. Hughes** attacked Undertaker ... World tag team champions **Money Inc.** beat **Tony Roy** & **Buddy Lane** ... **Luna Vachon** pinned **Sensational Sherri** ... **Papa Shango** pinned **Mike Davis** ... **The Smokin' Gunns** beat **Reno Riggins** & **Scott Taylor** ... **Virgil** pinned **Bastion Booger** ... **Tatanka** pinned **Mike Bell** ... **Lex Luger** pinned **Phil Apollo** ... **Adam Bomb** pinned **Jerry Seavey** ... **Mr. Hughes** pinned **Tito Santana** ... **Crush** pinned **Shawn Michaels** following a powerslam ... **The Undertaker** beat **Giant Gonzales** by disqualification ... **Doink** beat **Scott Baines** by submission ... **The Headshrinkers** beat **Mike Davis** & **Buddy Lane** ... **Bastion Booger** pinned **Virgil** ... **Curt Hennig** pinned **Burt Centeno** ... **Yokozuna** pinned **Hacksaw Duggan** ... **Bret Hart** beat **Lex Luger** by disqualification after **Razor Ramon** interfered.
(05-24-93)

—Andre Durant

JAPAN

SENDAI—All-Japan wrestling federation: **Richard Slinger** pinned **Masao Inoue** ... **Al Perez** pinned **Satoru Asako** ... **Mighty Inoue** pinned **Barry Horowitz** ... **Mitsuo Momata, Rusher Kimura**, & **Shohei "Giant" Baba** defeated **Ryuma Izumida, Haruka Eigen**, & **Masanobu Fuchi** when Baba pinned Izumuda ... **Doug Furnas** & **Dan Kroffat** defeated **Takao Ohmori** & **Jan Akiyama** when Furnas pinned Ohmori ... **The Eagle** & **The Patriot** defeated **Kamala** & **Abdullah the Butcher** when Patriot pinned Kamala ... **"Dr. Death" Steve Williams** & **Terry Gordy** defeated **Joel Deaton** & **Stan Hansen** when Gordy pinned Hansen after a power bomb ... **Tsuyoshi Kikuchi, Kenta Kobashi**, & **Mitsuhara Misawa** defeated **Yoshinari Ogawa, Akira Taue**, & **Toshiaki Kawada** when Kikuchi pinned Ogawa.
(06-03-93)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

HIROSHIMA—New Japan at Misawa Reajon Plaza Gym: **Ohtani** pinned **Nagata** ... **Lightning Kid** & **Pegasus Kid** defeated **El Samurai** & **Osamu Nishimura** ... **Dean Malenko** pinned **2 Cold Scorpio** ... **Eddy Guerrero** pinned **Noboru Honaga** ... **Jushin Liger** pinned **Dave Finlay** ... **Tony Holmes** & **Bobby Eaton** pinned **Masa Saito** & **Manabu Nakanishi** when Holmes pinned Nakanishi ... **Hiro Saito, Tatsutoshi Goto**, & **Strong Machine** defeated **Satoru Kojima, Takayuki Iizuka**, & **Akira Nogami** ... **Hiroshi Hase** & **The Great Muta** defeated **Akitashi Saito** & **Kuniaki Kobayashi** when Muta pinned Saito ... **Akitoshi Saito, Kuniaki Kobayashi, Masashi Aoyagi, The Great Kabuki, Shiro Koshinaka**, & **Kengo Kimura** defeated **Mishiyoshi Obara, Hiroshi Hase, Shinya Hashimoto, Masa Chono, The Great Muta**, & **Tatsumi Fujinami** when Koshinaka pinned Obara.
(06-03-93)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

KOYAMA—All-Japan at Koyama Playland Ska Center: **Masao Inoue** pinned **Curt Beyer** ... **Doug Furnas** & **Dan Kroffat** defeated **Takao Ohmori** & **Mighty Inoue** ... **Kamala** & **Abdullah the Butcher** defeated **Barry Horowitz** & **Al Perez** ... **Mitsuo Momota, Rusher Kimura**, & **Shohei "Giant" Baba** defeated **Ryuma Izumida, Haruka Eigen**, & **Masanobu Fuchi** ... **The Patriot** & **The Eagle** cap-

tured the Asian tag team title from **Tsuyoshi Kikuchi** & **Kenta Kobashi** when Patriot pinned Kikuchi ... **Jun Akiyama** & **Mitsuharu Misawa** defeated **Joel Deaton** & **Stan Hansen** ... **Richard Slinger**, **Steve Williams**, & **Terry Gordy** defeated **Yoshinari Ogawa**, **Toshiaki Kawada**, & **Akira Taue** when Gordy pinned Ogawa.
(06-02-93)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

TOKYO—All-Japan Pro Wrestling at Budokan Hall: **Mitsuo Mimota** beat **Takao Ohmori** ... **Kamala II** beat **Ryuma Izumida** ... **Doug Furnas** & **Dan Kroffat** beat **Al Perez** & **Curt Beyer** ... **Shohei "Giant" Baba**, **Mighty Inoue**, & **Rusher Kimura** beat **Masanobu Fuchi**, **Haruka Eigen**, & **Abdullah the Butcher** after Baba used a flying neckbreaker drop on Fuchi ... **Satoru Asako** & **Tsuyoshi Kikuchi** beat **Masao Inoue** & **Yoshinari Ogawa** ... **Joel Deaton**, **The Eagle**, & **The Patriot** beat **Barry Horowitz**, **Richard Slinger**, & **Steve Williams** ... **Stan Hansen** pinned **Terry Gordy** ... Tag team champions **Akira Taue** & **Toshiaki Kawada** beat **Kenta Kobashi** & **Mitsuharu Misawa**.
(06-01-93)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

OSAKA—All-Japan at Furitsu Gym: **Takao Ohmori** pinned **Ryuma Izumida** ... **Mighty Inoue** defeated **Richard Slinger** ... **Doug Furnas** & **Dan Kroffat** beat **Barry Horowitz** & **Al Perez** ... **Joel Deaton**, **Masanobu Fuchi**, & **Haruka Eigen** defeated **Mitsuo Momota**, **Rusher Kimura**, & **Shohei "Giant" Baba** ... **Abdullah the Butcher** & **Kamala II** beat **The Eagle** & **The Patriot** ... **Satoru Asako** & **Kenta Kobashi** defeated **Masao Inoue** & **Akira Taue** ... **Steve Williams** & **Terry Gordy** beat **Dan Spivey** & **Stan Hansen** ... **Yoshinari Ogawa** & **Toshiaki Kawada** beat **Tsuyoshi Kikuchi** & **Mitsuhara Misawa**.
(05-27-93)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

OHMIYA—New Japan at the Skate Center: **Lightning Kid** pinned **Dave Finlay** ... **El Samurai** pinned **Shinichiro Ohtanito** ... **Pegasus Kid** pinned **Masao Orihara** ... **Dean Malenko** defeated **Jushin Liger** ... **Kuniaki Kobayashi** & **Kengo Kimura** beat **Black Cat** & **Masa Chono** ... **Shinya Hashimoto** & **Yoshimichi Ohara** beat **Hiro Saito** & **Strong Machine** ...**Akitoshi Saito** & **Shiro Koshinaka** beat **Satoru Kojima** & **Riki Choshu** ... **Manabu Nakanishi** & **Tatsumi Fujinami** beat **Seiji Aoyagi** & **The Great Kabuki** ... **Bobby Eaton** & **Tony Halme** beat **Hiroshi Hase** & **The Great Muta**.
(05-26-93)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

OSAKA—WAR at Furitsu Gym: **King Iaukea Jr.** pinned **Yuji Yasuraoka** ... **Masashi Aoyogi** beat **Masao Orihara** ... **Yashimichi Ohara** pinned **Habukazu Hirai** ... **Earthquake Tenta** & **King Haku** beat **Yoshiro Ito** & **Dino Ventura** ... **Ultimo Dragon** regained the UWA middleweight title by pinning **El Samurai** ... **Strong Machine** & **Kochi Ktahara** beat **Akitoshi Saito** & **Kuniaki Kobayashi** ... **Shiro Koshinaka** pinned **Hiro Fuyuki** ... **Ashura Hara** beat **Kengo Kimura** by boston crab submission ... **The Great Kabuki** beat **The Great Muta** by disqualification when Muta hit the referee.
(05-24-93)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

HOKKAIDO—All-Japan at the Gym: **Mitsuo Momota** & **Tsuyoshi Kikuchi** beat **Ryuma Izumida** & **Haruka Eigen** ... **Ron Slinker** & **Doug Furnas** beat **Masao Inoue** & **Yoshinari Ogawa** ... **The Eagle** & **The Patriot** defeated **Barry Horowitz** & **Al Perez** ... **Mighty Inoue**, **Rusher Kimura**, & **Shohei "Giant" Baba** beat **Joel Deaton**, **Kamala II**, & **Abdullah the Butcher** ... **Dan Kroffat** won the junior heavyweight title by beating **Masanobu Fuchi** ... **Akira Taue** beat **Dan Spivey** ... **Kenta Kobashi** beat **Terry Gordy** ... **Toshiaki Kawada** defeated **Steve Williams** ... **Mitsuharu Misawa** beat **Stan Hansen**.
(05-21-93)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

SAPPORO—All-Japan at Nagagima Gym: **Satoru Asako** pinned **Takao Ohmori** ... **Tsuyoshi Kikuchi** pinned **Masao Inoue** ... **Yoshinari Ogawa** & **Mighty Inoue** defeated **Curt Beyer** & **Joel Deaton** ... **Mitsuo Mimota**, **Rusher Kimura**, & **Shohei "Giant" Baba** beat **Ryuma Izumida**, **Haruka Eigen**, & **Masanobu Fuchi** ... **Kamala II** & **Abdullah the Butcher** beat **Barry Horowitz** & **Al Perez** ... **The Eagle** & **The Patriot** defeated **Dan Kroffat** & **Doug Furnas** ... **Kenta Kobashi** & **Mitsuharu Misawa** beat **Dan Spivey** & **Stan Hansen** ... **Akira Taue** & **Toshiaki Kawada** beat **Terry Gordy** & **Steve Williams** to win the All-Japan & PWF tag team belts.
(05-20-93)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES—Results from the Olympic Auditorium: **Raul Mata** defeated **El Espectro** ... **El Rayo** and **Billy Graham** battled to a draw ... **Fritz Von Goering** defeated **La Pantera Negra** ... **Eric Forelich** defeated **Black Gordman** ... **Kenji Shibuya** & **Mr. Saito** battled **The Samoans** to a draw to retain the Americas tag team championship ... **Ernie Ladd** defeated **Bobo Brazil** to retain the Americas championship ... **Reuben Juarez** defeated **Goliath**.
(08-11-72)

—PWI Archives

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS—AWA at the Minneapolis Auditorium: **Verne Gagne** & **Joe Scarpello** defeated **Tiny Mills** & **Killer Kowalski** to capture the World tag team title ... **Gene Kiniski** defeated **Man Mountain Campbell** ... **Bob Geigel** defeated **George Grant** ... **Len Montana** defeated **John Swenski**.
(08-17-60)

—Minneapolis Morning Tribune

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWF at Madison Square Garden: **Iron Mike Sharpe** and **B. Brian Blair** battled to a double-countout ... **Salvatore Bellomo** and **Rick McGraw** battled to a draw ... **Kamala** beat **Chief Jay Strongbow** ... **Ken Patera** beat **Pat Patterson** by submission ... **Michael Hayes**, **Buddy Roberts**, & **Terry Gordy** beat **Ron Shaw**, **Butcher Vachon**, & **Pete Doherty** two falls to none ... **Terry Daniels** beat **Fred Mornzono** ... Intercontinental champion **Tito Santana** defeated **Greg Valentine** by disqualification ... World tag team champions **Adrian Adonis** & **Dick Murdoch** beat **The Wild Samoans**, with **Capt. Lou Albano** as special guest referee ... **Jesse Ventura** beat **Ivan Putski** by countout ... **Roddy Piper** beat **Jimmy Snuka** by countout.
(08-25-84)

—Chris Crystal □

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OFF THE TOP ROPE

(Continued from page 18)

you meant to write to a different magazine. Hogan is worse than those superstar athletes who decline to be held up to the public as role models. Hogan insists on being a model for today's youth, yet his philosophy of "do as I say, not as I do" is no longer defensible. The media must drop its double standard when covering the man they have for too long revered as pro wrestling's savior. I say enough's enough: Let's have him put to sleep.

Ahhhhhh, now *this* is what wrestling is all about: Pampero Firpo vs. The Sheik, circa 1974. Either of these men could make mincemeat out of most of the self-proclaimed tough guys of the '90s without even thinking twice about it.

Dear Eddie,

I realize this is pure speculation, but I would like your opinion: Had it not been for Magnum T.A.'s tragic automobile accident in 1986, what position would he occupy in wrestling today?

RICHARD EVANS
Gulfport, MS

Dear Richard,

It is insensitive and absurd to describe Magnum's career-ending crash as "fortunate." Yet, from a wrestling standpoint, it is an entirely appropriate word choice. Magnum had reached the precipice of his skills. Great things were expected of him—world championships, a long career of superstardom, etc.—which he was incapable of attaining. Magnum was one of those rare athletes who actually maximized his skills. Had he not been injured, he would have been a major disappointment. He was not world-championship material. He was not big enough or strong enough to sustain a career in the top levels of the sport. His injury conferred upon him an instant mythology. He will always be remembered as a battling champion, a man who struggled against the odds, rather than a star whose shine quickly and quietly faded.

Dear Eddie,

Do you think the rulebreakers of 20 years ago are more lethal than the ones wrestling today? Personally, I think Nailz, Papa Shango, Razor Ramon, and Shawn Michaels could kick butt in any time period. Your thoughts?

JOEY KLUNK
Baltimore, MD

Dear Joey,

I'm assuming from your childish scrawl that you, too, are part of America's youth movement, so your letter only reinforces Dr. Gallagher's grim analysis. Twenty and 30 years ago, in wrestling's Jurassic age, giant beasts roamed the rings: Killer Kowalski, Pampero Firpo, Don Leo Jonathan, Dick the Bruiser, King Curtis, The Sheik—any one of whom could tear apart any two of the men you list limb by dismembered limb. Not only that, the movements of these legends were monitored by true geniuses—The Grand Wizard, Fred Blassie, and Lou Albano—who make today's legion of managers seem like a kindergarten class for slow children.

Dear Eddie,

Some people may not understand this, but the fact is I have a crush on Crush. If I do not find out his real name, where he lives, and his marital status, I will go crazy. Please help me. Is he available? If he isn't, I wouldn't mind knowing what Undertaker's real name is, either. I'm a dedicated reader of your columns and I know you've answered dumber questions than these. Thanks so much.

LANAE WOODS
Smithville, Ohio

Dear Lanae,

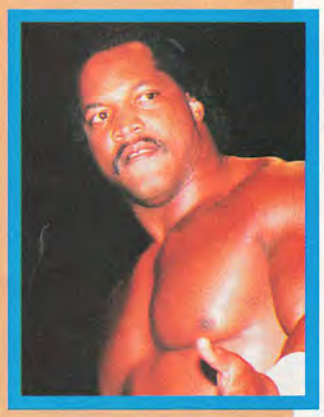
Dr. Gallagher was right: These indeed are grim times for the youth of America. □

this month in...

WRESTLE America

CURT HENNIG vs. **SHAWN MICHAELS**: No belt, no glory, no mercy!

What made **RON SIMMONS** say, "I feel sorry for **BARRY WINDHAM**"



PLUS...

The fans anoint a new Memphis monarch: **JEFF JARRETT** is the USWA's *real* king ... **BAGWELL** & **SCORPIO**: Can muscle and feet beat the WCW's elite? ... Power play! Has **CRUSH** muscled **LEX LUGER** out of the WWF title picture?

All this—and much more—in the September 1993 issue of *Wrestle America*

NOW ON SALE!

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS

Double **DOINK** I-C title plot foiled—and revealed! Thank you, **SHAWN MICHAELS**!

Special section: The men that must be banned for crimes against wrestling!

PLUS...

Superstar Dream Match: **STING** & **DAVEY BOY SMITH** vs. **HULK HOGAN** & **BRUTUS BEEFCAKE** ... **THE FOUR HORSEMEN** are back! For better or worse? ... **MISS TEXAS** has a date with **JAMIE DUNDEE** on the mat ... **DUSTY RHODES**: The **GEORGE FOREMAN** of wrestling; but what does **DUSTIN** think?

All this—and much more—in the October 1993 issue of *Wrestling Superstars*

NOW ON SALE!

VOLUME XIV, No. 7 JULY 1993

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

STEINERS CAPTURE WWF WORLD TAG BELTS

Perseverance vs. Money Inc. Pays Off for Rick & Scott

By ANDY RODRIGUEZ

COLUMBUS, OH—Rick and Scott Steiner ended months of frustration by winning the WWF World tag team title from Money Inc. on June 14. Ted DiBiase and Irwin R. Schyster had held the belts since they beat The Natural Disasters on October 13, 1992.

Money Inc. had come under heavy criticism from fans, other teams and even legendary WWF tag team manager Capt. Lou Albano for the tactics they used in defending and retaining the belts. On many occasions, Schyster and DiBiase fled the ring to save their titles, or, more frequently, they used the steel briefcase they brought to ringside on opponents.

Most of their title defenses ended with countouts or on disqualifications.

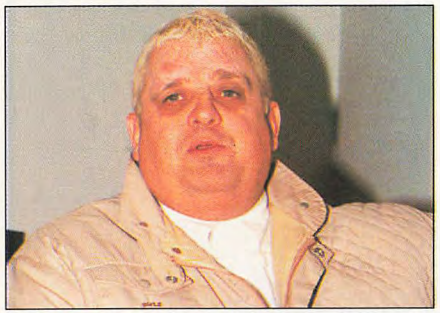
Rick and Scott Steiner have a lot to celebrate, having added the WWF tag team belts to their championship resume.

Some insiders felt the Steiners were running out of time—and title shots—with teams such as Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake and The Smokin' Gunns waiting in the wings.

"It wasn't their fault, but the Steiners had been getting stale," said WWF expert Thomas Pilliard. "That's all changed now."

The Steiners' win only added to a whirlwind WWF week. The previous night in Dayton, Ohio, Bret Hart was crowned "King Of The Ring," and Yokozuna dethroned Hulk Hogan as WWF World champ. Only a week earlier, Shawn Michaels ended Marty Jannetty's three-week Intercontinental title reign by capturing his second I-C championship.

Dusty Ponders Return To The Ring



Upset over remarks made by former rival The Assassin, Dusty Rhodes is mulling a comeback.

By DAVE ROSENBAUM

AUSTIN, TX—Once again there might be two Rhodes in the ring. The "American Dream" Dusty Rhodes is seriously considering coming out of retirement to answer a challenge from The Assassin.

According to sources close to the Rhodes family, Dusty has had enough of The Assassin's tough talk and thinks he still has enough fight left in him to jump into another feud. The Assassin and Rhodes wrestled many times during the early 1980s, and the masked man has said several times that he wants to see his one-time foe come back so they can take care of some unfinished business.

"I don't know that Dusty has the guts to haul his fat body back into the ring with a crafty veteran like me," said The Assassin. He'd probably be seriously injured with the shape he's in today."

Sources have indicated that Dusty's family isn't thrilled with the thought of him returning to competition, but they would stand by his decision.

Steve Regal Traces Royal Roots

By STU SAKS

ATLANTA—Steve Regal, or as he prefers *Lord Steven* Regal, is now boasting that he is descended from British royalty.

Regal has had only moderate success in WCW of late, so he was clearly in need of a career boost. He recently hired a man named Sir William to manage him. Coincidentally, Regal claims he can trace his ancestry back to *William* the Conqueror.

"You chaps in America don't understand superior wrestling talent when you see it," said Regal. "I am *Lord* Steven Regal, and Sir William and I deserve to be treated with the same respect with which everyone would treat the Queen Mother herself."

Lord or no lord, there's no denying that underneath his "royal" exterior, Regal has wrestling talent. Regal can wrestle competitively with most anyone as long as he doesn't worry about his heritage once he steps into the ring.

"Wager all the tea and crumpets in Her Majesty's kingdom—I'll make Lord Steven a champion," said Sir William.

Dirty Smothers Upends "Dirty White Boy"

By DAVE LENKER

KNOXVILLE, TN—Tracey Smothers captured the Smoky Mountain heavyweight belt when he used some surprisingly dirty methods against arch-rival "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony.

It came as no surprise that this match ended violently. The two had been battling throughout Smoky Mountain in chain matches and the like for months. The bout concluded when Anthony pulled a chain from his trunks and knocked out Smothers. Referee Mark Curtis was also out cold. When Anthony tried to revive him to get a pinfall, Smothers pulled a chain from *his* trunks, blasted Anthony, and pinned him.

Previously, they clashed in a "coward waves the flag" match. The bout ended in controversy, and the title was declared held up.

"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony has Tracey Smothers seeing red.

Smothers had since pinned Anthony in several non-title meetings.

"This is not over," an angry Anthony said. "Smothers showed what cheap methods he has to use to beat me. Ron Wright and I are not through with him. He'll pay big time."

AROUND THE GLOBE

OSAKA, JAPAN

It's quite an achievement in Japan to be named the "best of the junior heavyweights." That was the honor bestowed upon Pegasus Kid after he won a tournament to determine the best of the smaller grapplers. The achievement becomes even greater considering the tournament field included the likes of Dean Malenko and 2 Cold Scorpio. Pegasus Kid defeated El Samurai in the tournament final.

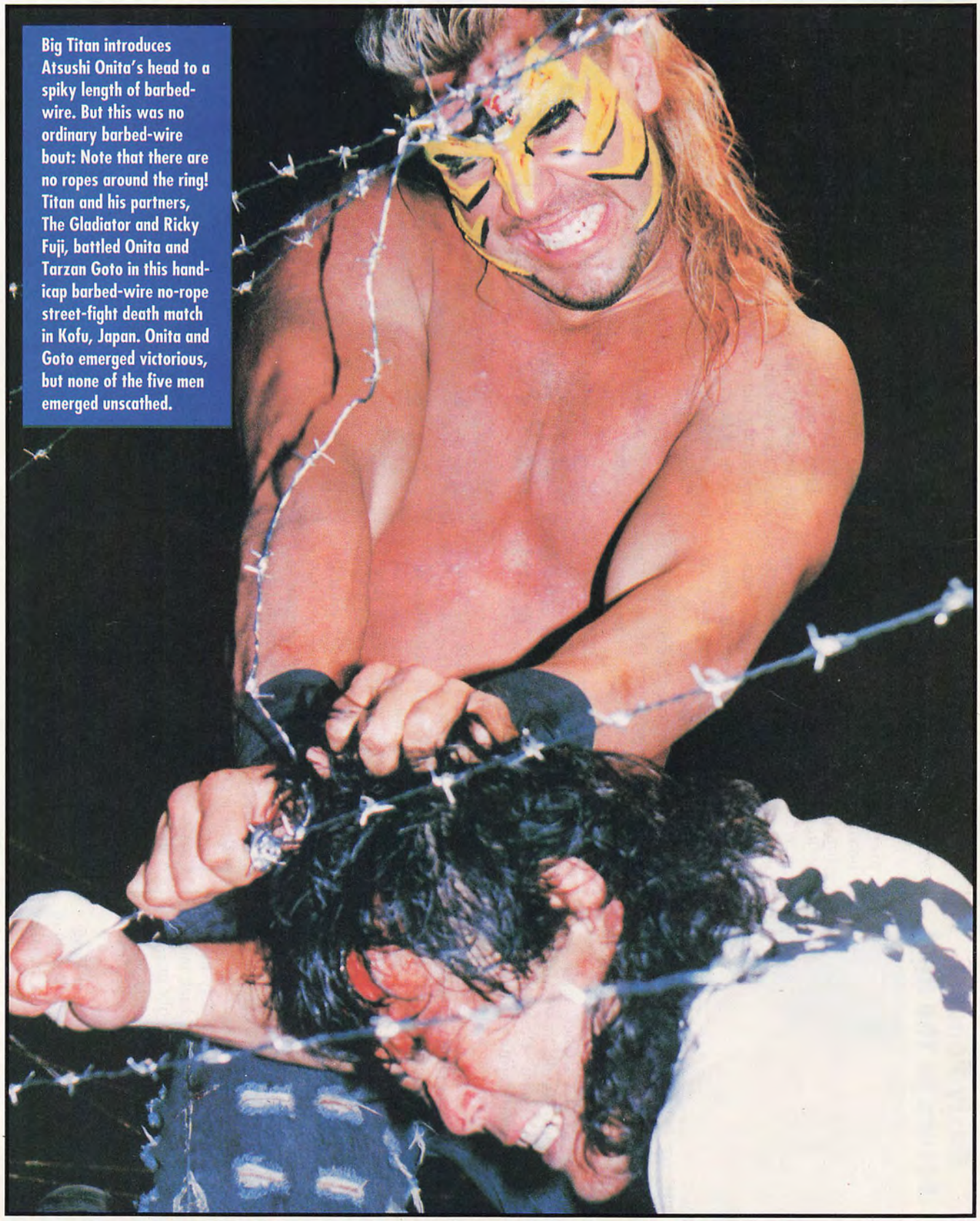
GRAZ, AUSTRIA

The CWA was in the midst of a three-week tournament at press time. Scheduled to be on the cards, among others, are Road Warrior Hawk and Rambo, two wrestlers who have had quite a rivalry of late. The big European news, however, is that the CWA is planning to sanction a women's match, the first in its history. The combatants had not been determined at press time, but it is known that it will be two British women facing off.

CHIGASAKI, JAPAN

One of the mat sport's top aerialists will be grounded for a stretch. Japanese high-flyer Jushin Liger has broken a bone in his lower leg. Liger suffered the injury in a match against WCW star 2 Cold Scorpio in a junior heavyweight tournament. Liger has never suffered a serious injury of this nature, so time will tell if it will cause any long-term problems once he recovers.

HOT SHOT



Big Titan introduces Atsushi Onita's head to a spiky length of barbed-wire. But this was no ordinary barbed-wire bout: Note that there are no ropes around the ring! Titan and his partners, The Gladiator and Ricky Fuji, battled Onita and Tarzan Goto in this handicap barbed-wire no-rope street-fight death match in Kofu, Japan. Onita and Goto emerged victorious, but none of the five men emerged unscathed.

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